



NEVADA LEGISLATURE JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(Section 6 of [Assembly Bill 443](#), Chapter 392, *Statutes of Nevada 2021*,
at page 2505)

DRAFT MINUTES

February 15, 2022

The second meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs for the 2021–2022 Interim was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 9 a.m. Pursuant to [NRS 218A.820](#), there was no physical location for this meeting.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Committee's meeting page. The audio or video recording may also be found at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Video/>. Copies of the audio or video record can be obtained through the Publications Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (publications@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Vice Chair
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Dina Neal
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblyman Andy Matthews
Assemblywoman Selena Torres

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Jered M. McDonald, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division
Erin Andersen, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division
Steven Jamieson, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division
Heidi Chlarson, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Cathy Crocket, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.
[Indicate a summary of comments.]*

AGENDA ITEM I—OPENING REMARKS

[Chair Dondero Loop called the meeting to order. She welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the second meeting of the Committee. She reviewed virtual meeting and testimony guidelines.]

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

[Chair Dondero Loop reviewed the ways to provide public comment, all of which are listed on the agenda, and public comment is limited to three minutes with an additional opportunity to provide public comment at the end of the meeting.]

Chair Dondero Loop:

Broadcast Production Services (BPS) staff, please add the first caller with public comment to the meeting.

BPS:

To participate in public comment, please press raise hand in your Zoom window or *9 on your phone to take your place in the queue.

Chair, the public lines are working, but it appears that no one wishes to participate at this time.

AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON JANUARY 11, 2022

Chair Dondero Loop:

We are now on to Agenda Item III—approval of the minutes from the meeting held on January 11. The draft minutes were made available to Committee members and the public at the beginning of last week. Hopefully, you have had some time to review them. Do I have a motion to approve?

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON JANUARY 11, 2022.

VICE CHAIR FLORES SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM IV—PRESENTATION ON APPROACHES EMPLOYED BY VARIOUS STATES TO PROMOTE TRIBAL COLLABORATION

Chair Dondero Loop:

Next on our agenda is a presentation regarding approaches employed by various states to promote tribal collaboration.

For a little background on this issue: In recent Legislative sessions, we have passed several bills that sought to provide Nevada's tribes with a voice in decision-making processes at the state level. You may recall from 2019, we passed [Assembly Bill 264](#) (2019), which requires each state agency to collaborate with Indian tribes in the development and implementation of policies, agreements, and programs; and defines a process for resolving issues or concerns between a tribe and state agencies.

You may also recall, last Session [Assembly Bill 52](#) (2019) added one tribal voting member to the Land Use Planning Advisory Council. [Assembly Bill 72](#) (2019) added a representative of the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) as a voting member on the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names. And finally, [Assembly Bill 95](#) (2019) added one tribal member to the Subcommittee on Public Lands.

These are just a few examples of some of the measures the Legislature has approved to improve collaboration between the state and tribes in Nevada. The new interim structure provides us an opportunity to take a step back and take a more in-depth review of this issue by seeing what other states are doing in this area and getting feedback on how some of these initiatives are working in this state.

We have two presentations on state and tribal collaboration today. The first is a presentation under this agenda item by Martha Saenz with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Martha is an Associate Director with NCSL and works with the Quad Caucus and Women's Legislative Network. Good morning, Ms. Saenz. It is nice to have you with us today. Please begin your presentation when you are ready, and then we will look for additional comments from the Committee. Please, go ahead.

Martha Saenz, Associate Director, Quad Caucus and Women's Legislative Network, NCSL:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am Martha Saenz. As Madam Chair mentioned, I work within the NCSL State Services Division, and that encompasses our State-Tribal Institute, our Women's Legislative Network, and the Quad Caucus, which is a convening of the four national caucuses of color. I service as lead staff to the National Caucus of Native American State Legislatures (NCNASL). As part of this presentation, I will be giving a very brief overview of not only NCSL and the work we do, but I will also go into some of the state-tribal engagement (Agenda Item IV). For those of you who are not familiar, NCSL is the only organization that serves the 7,383 state legislatures across the country and over 25,000 staff. This just gives an array of some of the services we offer, everything from policy research on over 1,400 issues to meetings. Some of you may have heard about our legislative summit. We are a bipartisan organization and do have a voice in Washington, D.C. We have an office in Denver and an office in D.C.

Let us get to why we are here today. There are many forms of state-tribal engagement, and what we are looking at here, and what NCSL focuses on specifically, are those initiated through state legislative measures. Many of these relationships are multifaceted, and they incorporate state legislatures, state agencies, educational institutions, and governors' offices. We are not here promoting any one state over another. What works for some states may not work for others, and from what we have seen and tracked over the years, there are no two states that are exactly the same. Neighboring governments share aspects of economic and social systems, and political relationships can better result in meeting the needs of citizens within that state. The boxes listed on this particular slide are some of the ways that states have engaged. We will break each of these down in the following slides,

and we will see how states have engaged in state legislative committees, executive branches, and other legislative measures.

The first I am going to discuss is state legislative committees. There are approximately 15 states that have standing interim or study legislative committees. You will notice that many of these are west of the Mississippi. We will look at another slide later on down the road that looks exactly opposite of this one, and although state legislative committees are instruments of the state, some states have found it beneficial to make the creation and operation of their particular committee a joint committee undertaking or joint undertaking in itself between states and tribes. An example of that is Idaho, your northern neighbor. The Idaho Council on Indian Affairs was established 23 years ago, and it consists of ten members who are state legislators, a representative from the governor's office, and one member from each of the federally recognized tribes in the state. They meet twice a year, and in recent years they have addressed everything from commerce to fuel tax agreements to Indian education, and most recently, missing and murdered indigenous women. Over the past decade, almost two dozen bills related to tribes have gone through the legislature. Of course, Idaho only has five federally recognized tribes, so the dynamic is different and the ability to include each of those tribal representatives, because of the sheer number, is a little bit more realistic in that particular state.

North Dakota has a Tribal and State Relations Committee and is six members, with representatives from the House and Senate, and it only consists of legislators.

Utah's Native American Legislative Liaison Committee consists of 11 legislators, and it reviews operations and holds some level of accountability for the Division of Indian Affairs and other state agencies that work with tribes. They sponsor meetings for native populations, and in the past have hosted Indian Caucus Day where tribal leaders meet with legislative leadership. We will discuss more on those efforts a little further down the presentation.

Next is executive branch and commissions. There are 42 states that have created a commission or entity really focused on facilitating the creation of state and tribal-wide relationships, opening the framework and creating a platform for communication. They range in scope and capacity, and they range in dormancy. In some cases, some of them have gone dormant depending on the issues that are at the forefront in the state or for the tribe, and then they come back to life at different points in time. They have changed and evolved in scope overtime. An example of that is New Mexico's particular commission. They started off as a statute all the way back in 1953, and then the state agency established the Office of Indian Affairs. It served as a vehicle between the governor's office, the legislature, and the separate and distinct local tribes. Then in 2003, former Governor Bill Richardson signed an executive order elevating the office of Indian Affairs to the Indian Affairs Department. That created a cabinet level position; it is the first in the nation to do so. As a side note, I mentioned that I staff the NCNASL. The first cabinet secretary for that is now Senator Benny Shendo, who is the chair of the NCNASL. It ends up being a small world in every state. The following year the legislature formally established the Indian Affairs Department by legislative statute.

Colorado's Commission is run by their lieutenant governor and the lieutenant governor's office serves as the official liaison between the State of Colorado, the Southern Ute Indian Tribes, and Ute Mountain Tribes. The Commission ensures direct contact and meaningful engagement—a term that we hear often within tribal communities. It takes various definitions by state and by tribe, but there is an effort to better understand meaningful engagement and what that looks like. Right now, the Commission in Colorado is working

with public schools that are required to change mascots now that legislation passed a couple of years ago.

This year in California, there is a bill moving through the Assembly requiring training of state agencies in government-to-government consultation with tribal governments. [California Assembly Bill 923 \(2021\)](#) was introduced by Assemblymember James Ramos, the first Native American in California to serve in the Legislature. He was elected in 2018.

I am going to quote Ramos, because I think when we are looking at bills and the intent behind them, it is always better to get it from the actual author. He said:

We have seen recent examples of confusion that too often arises as state and local government interact with tribes. Questions of jurisdiction, sovereignty, and even a lack of awareness about tribal governments' prerogatives hinder collaborative relationships and access to public assistance during emergencies such as wildfires, earthquakes, and now during the pandemic.

The measure includes a requirement of the executive branch within the state government to consult with local governments—including tribes—within 60 days of tribal consultation requests, and for state agency directors to consider the need for tribal consultation before approving the policy. The bill has passed the Assembly and is now moving through the Senate.

Another form of engagement has been around agreements and protocols. What I am talking about in this particular slide—and overall for this presentation—is not necessarily gaining compacts, which are a different type of agreement, or tax agreements. These are agreements facilitated directly between the governor and tribes to facilitate and bolster state-tribal relationship.

In 1989, the Washington governor signed the [Centennial Accord](#) on behalf of the state along with the tribes. The mission of that one in particular was to achieve mutual tribal-state goals through improved relationships and shared respect between sovereign governments. The Centennial Accord was then reupped in 1999, about ten years later, as the new [Millennium Agreement](#). There are a few other states that have something very similar; although, the scope of each of those is very different.

Next is looking at dedicated events at the capitol, and this is really a cultural appreciation and acknowledgement of tribes in the state, in addition to an opportunity to meet with tribal leaders. We have seen consistent ones over the years in Arizona, Maine, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Oregon, and when we are looking at those, it is a variety of activities. They can either host a Native American cultural recognition and have specific cultural events at the capitol for a day, or there is an ability to invite tribal leaders to give a state-of-the-tribes address to legislators in both chambers.

I am going to highlight a couple that have happened recently. At the start of session in Arizona, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by the first lady and the vice president of Navajo Nation where he addressed the Arizona State Legislature and tribal lawmakers who were also invited to the capitol that day. He spoke about the contributions and resiliency of Navajo people during the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and throughout society. He then used the opportunity to speak directly to some requests for state lawmakers and requested they work together further to promote voting rights amongst Native American people, and more on the Indian Child Welfare Act, while

highlighting the progress of infrastructure developments, and the access to clean water that Navajo Nation has struggled with over the past—forever.

In 2019, another example is Colorado where they hosted a Youth Day at the capitol, which included the permanent posting of the three federally recognized tribes in the state. Their flags are at the state capitol building

Another unique example that we have seen is Washington State incorporating an Indian 101. They partner with the University of Washington on this to conduct a short training during the new legislator orientation. That is mainly to familiarize state legislators of the federally recognized tribes in the states and discuss sovereign issues. Other states have issued handbooks—which go over some of the state-tribal engagement and relations—to state legislators who are interested or have requested them. That is really to get some basic level of education, so when there is a bill on the floor being discussed related to state tribes, there is that piece already included. Another unique thing that Washington does is they include the training as an option to staff and offer continuing legal education (CLE) credits, which is a unique aspect in that way.

Another way that some states decided to build or bolster relationships with their tribes in the state are through establishing a formal process for state recognition. Earlier I mentioned in the slide that you see a lot of the states west of Mississippi, and now you are seeing a lot of states east of Mississippi. That is mostly because of the movement that has happened with native communities moving from one place to another. State recognition is different from federal recognition, and really the process and goal within these states in particular, and what we see within these tribes, is to still reach federal recognition. But this gives the authority for the Indian Arts and Crafts Act to take place for some of these tribes. Under the Act, an Indian is defined as a member of any federally or officially state recognized tribe of the United States, and that certifies an Indian artisan by an Indian tribe. Also, if you take a look at the map, in many cases, these tribes have begun the long and complex process of federal recognition, which in many cases remains the ultimate goal. This offers, in some cases, a record for main continuous form of governments, which is a requirement of federal recognition and is a little bit unique.

This [slide] offers a state-tribal legislative snapshot of legislative measures that we have seen introduced over the past few years related to state-tribal relations. In some cases, it is not always necessarily about establishing a commission, but it is about addressing specific pieces of legislation related to native communities or improving the outcomes for native communities.

A big one, and I mentioned this in Idaho, was missing and murdered indigenous women. In 2021, we saw 16 states introduce legislation related to the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and or persons. Those fall into three separate buckets: (1) buckets around law enforcement training; (2) data gathering; and (3) establishing a specific or interim task force on missing and murdered indigenous women to get more data around it, because what we have found is there is not enough data in many cases to address this issue, but we know that preliminary data is showing huge issues and huge discrepancies with some of the numbers on this.

Another is Indigenous Peoples' Day. This is just an acknowledgement, and it does not always necessarily mean it is replacing Columbus Day. In most cases, it is an acknowledgement of history or historical reference of native people in the state, and that can be dedicating a month or a day. Another is school mascots, and I listed mascots here, but it also lends itself to geographic names. Madam Chair, you mentioned that recently for

Nevada, they are removing or looking into offensive names and or changing the names of geographic places.

Another interesting one that we have seen is native language and native language immersion within public schools or historical curriculum. In some cases, as in the case of Washington, they have included a waiver for teachers to teach native languages since the typical state requirement on language teachings does not apply to native languages because of the historical and that it has had to pass down from generation to generation.

The presentation was intended to give a 50,000-foot overview of some of the things that states have done. Of course, there are many various activities, and there are over 300 pieces of legislation related to state-tribal issues introduced in the states every year that we are tracking. I am happy to answer any questions, and/or provide more information.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you so much, Ms. Saenz. That was really good information. I am sure that many of us feel the same way. Do I have any questions or comments from the Committee? Senator Neal.

Senator Neal:

Thanks, Madam Chair. I had a quick question. I wanted to know what is the federal and state gap between states acting around the burial grounds? That typically comes up when there is a dig site; it is coming up now for lithium. I want to know what is the area in which the state can act outside of the feds?

Ms. Saenz:

Thank you, Senator. I think it varies by state, depending on where in particular those burial lands fall, and whether or not they are on federal tribal reservations. If you are looking at something in particular, I am happy to partner with some of my colleagues within our energy and environment program to look more into that and provide more information.

Senator Neal:

Yes, and Madam Chair, just a quick follow up. There is this old federal law that has been around forever about, if minerals are found in what is considered a reservation or Indian or Native American lands, who does it belong to? The way I read it is any minerals found the tribe does not have ownership of that mineral; the actual federal government does. It was interesting because I think this probably dates back to the 1800s and is a very interesting federal-state nuance.

Ms. Saenz:

We have seen it come up, not only with minerals, but also how we deal with historical sites and things like that. It goes back to some of how federal land is in trust within the federal government. It is a complex issue. I think how some states have dealt with and looked into this is very interesting. I am happy to follow up with you, specifically, and provide that information.

Senator Neal:

Thank you.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Any additional questions? I do not see anybody's hands. I have a question about legislation. It seems you referenced across different states about the missing women legislation, and the addressing of the data gathering as opposed to establishing a task force. What is the difference? I get gathering the data, but is the task force not tasked with gathering that data? How does that work?

Ms. Saenz:

A lot of times, like in the case of Minnesota in particular, the task force was actually tasked with looking at who would be best identifiable to gather that data. They looked at what data do we have available, where are opportunities to improve data gathering, and how do we approach it from a training standpoint for law enforcement? Is it something that needs to be done within our criminal jurisdictions to look at and say, 'Okay, here are the gaps and here is what we know?' Or is it a matter of reporting—or not having the ability to specifically report—missing and murdered indigenous women separately from any other case, or where they are not identified appropriately, especially by race in some cases. That is what their task force did. They took an overall encompassing look at where do we have data, and where can we improve it? Who would be best to collect and or analyze some of that data so that we can make improvements?

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you, and then another question. Am I correct that we have 27 tribes in Nevada? Do you have that? That might be a Ms. Montooth question, but when you had mentioned that Idaho had five, it made me focus on that.

Ms. Saenz:

The distinction was that Idaho has far less, so I think the following presenter is the best to answer, but we do sort of track it by state also.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. Any additional questions from the Committee? That was really great information. I thank you for joining us today. I am sure some of us will be reaching out to you. Thank you very much.

AGENDA ITEM V—UPDATE AND OVERVIEW OF POLICIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATE AGENCIES AND INDIAN TRIBES OF NEVADA

Chair Dondero Loop:

Next under Agenda Item V, we have our second presentation on state and tribal collaboration. We are going to hear from Stacey Montooth, Executive Director with the NIC who will provide an update on some of the initiatives we have implemented recently to promote collaboration between state agencies and tribes in Nevada. Good morning, Ms. Montooth and welcome and good to see you. Please begin when you are ready.

Stacey Montooth, Executive Director, NIC:

Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair. It is a beautiful snow-covered day here in our State Capitol. I am talking to you from the Stewart Indian School. I am a citizen of the Walker River Paiute Nation, and I am the executive director of the NIC. I want to start by thanking you all for allowing me to address, not just the launch or the implementation of our consultation law AB 264, but to share with you milestones and to also discuss what work needs to still be done. I also want to thank the organizers of this morning's meeting. I was not familiar with NCSL. I did not know they had such focused work on tribal nations, and I learned a lot as well.

Having said that, I want to make sure that this group knows how far above the curve you all are. I tried to quickly take some notes while Ms. Saenz was speaking. I want to make sure that you all are aware that on the state level we do have 22 state tribal liaisons. The state does recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day. We have Native American Heritage Month, and we also recognize Native American Day in the month of November. We have legislation now that provides a pathway for any public schools in Nevada to transition from using Native American mascots. We do have one school district—Washoe County—that does implement—what we call—Great Basin language. There is an amazing program in Washoe County in which a tribal elder or a fluent speaker can co-teach in the classroom. I believe it is happening in four high schools in Washoe County—North Valleys, Reed High School, Spanish Springs High, and the fourth one is escaping me right now. But those four schools do offer—what they call international language—as an elective, and it is just an amazing program that the NIC would love to see implemented in all our school districts.

Regarding the executive branch, you all probably know we do have a five-person advisory commission. I am honored to be a member of the governor's cabinet. The previous speaker spoke about events at the capitol. Currently, we do have Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. It is in early February during each legislative session. On that occasion, the Legislature is flooded with special guests including tribal elders, tribal veterans, tribal elected officials, and students. The guests get special seating and special recognitions. We do blessings; our elders provide a special prayer to get the day started, and typically most of our tribal chairs will make a point to meet with their respective legislative representatives. The Nevada Day Parade is a huge opportunity for our tribal nations, historically, and I believe it starts with the Stewart Indian School. They have always had a lot of pride, not just to participate in, but to attend the Nevada Day Parade. Nevada Day is a huge celebration holiday for our tribal communities. We have had art displayed at the legislative building. Ms. Saenz mentioned tribal flags; Vice Chair Flores, on this Committee, had prompted the NIC to work to collect all the tribal flags, not just for display at our state Legislature, but also at our flagship universities; that project is underway.

I love the idea of a new orientation for new legislators. I want to share with you that NIC does provide a Legislation 101 for our tribal leaders. We have a little bit of training on how a bill becomes a law for our elected officials, specifically to address some of Chair Dondero Loop's questions about the missing and murdered indigenous women. As far as I know, most of the work that is done in this state is between our tribal communities and federal representatives, but as the previous speaker mentioned, it is an epidemic. Unfortunately, Nevada is not excluded in that. That was absolutely unscripted. I wanted to share again what an amazing job Nevada is doing. I often have opportunities to give presentations, and I typically start by telling my audience that Nevada has always been very cutting edge. In fact, when Nevada became a state, the population did not meet the threshold that was required by the federal government. In the mid-1860s, then President Lincoln allowed our Native American population to be counted, so the number of Native Americans added to the

overall population of the state, and we met that threshold. One could argue that Great Basin Natives actually became state citizens before they got federal recognition, because that did not happen until 1925.

I would like to answer any questions you have about the implementation of AB 264. If I can ask that either Jered or one of your technicians go ahead and put up my matrix of AB 264. I had a couple of handouts that I provided in advance.

Mr. McDonald:

I believe we were going to have you share your screen. Can you possibly share those with us?

Ms. Montooth:

Sure, let me give that a go. What I wanted to share with you is what I was calling a matrix (Agenda Item V A-1). I think that it is really important that I remind everybody how this legislation came to be. Specifically, as the chair mentioned, AB 264 was passed and signed into law in July 2019. I want to remind you all that NIC was without leadership until I was appointed by Governor Sisolak in September. We went into effect in July. We had a gap of leadership; I stepped in three months later—not only new to NIC, but to state service. Then as you all know, five months later our world turned upside down, and we were hit with this global pandemic. I share that with you because there is more work to be done, but I want to make sure that I am clear that we have really been strapped by the inability to travel, and to consult face to face with our tribal nations, as well as the leadership of our tribal nations' priorities.

With help from then Deputy Attorney General Tori Sundheim, we came up with this matrix, and basically what we did was we charted everyone's responsibilities for this collaboration. You can see in this column to the far left, NIC are tasked with the written policy. Not only does it have to promote effective communication, but also positive government-to-government relations; it has to be culturally competent, and as the chair noted earlier, we have to have a method for notifying employees about the act. I am very proud to tell you that we have done that, as I mentioned earlier, 22 Nevada agencies have identified a tribal liaison.

Regarding a policy, I would say that is probably the weakest aspect of the implementation of this law, and because of the pandemic, we have not gotten enough input from our tribal leaders. You are absolutely right, Chair Dondero Loop, we have 27 tribal nations, and I have gotten written feedback from four regarding the written policy that was developed by the chair of NIC, Kostas Lathouris. I have given a hard copy of that policy to every tribal leader whenever I see them in person, which has probably been about a half a dozen times since the pandemic hit. It has been mailed. It has been emailed. It has been faxed. Quite honestly, I believe that because our tribal nations had so much of the inequities in their communities absolutely emphasized during the pandemic, that reviewing a written policy for the state was just not—and still is not—a priority. We have tribal nations that are trying to ensure that their citizens have food; they are trying to keep the lights on in their administration buildings. Even as we speak, some of our tribal nations are still working remotely, and that opens up another large difficulty with connectivity, even for those tribal nations who do have a tribal administrator, a health director, or an environmental specialist, they might not have the equipment nor the broad bandwidth to work from home. I truly believe as the pandemic becomes more predictable, I will be able to get plenty of input from the other 21 tribal leaders for the written policy.

Ms. Montooth:

I wanted to bring your attention to the breakdown of the rest of this matrix that I have. Within NIC's purview, we are required to publish on our website or on the Internet an accurate list of the names and contacts, not just for our Nevada tribal liaisons, but for our tribal leaders, as well (Agenda Item V A-2), (Agenda Item V A-3). I provided that information to the organizers of the meeting. It is on NIC's website. This is our home page. We have the state liaison listed and it is a handy PDF. Here are all our tribal leaders and how any state liaison would get in touch with them, as well as how our tribal leaders would get in touch with the tribal liaison from Nevada Department of Transportation or from the Office of the Secretary of State, or whichever different department they might have business with.

Here is the breakdown of the state agencies' responsibilities. It outlines everything from a reasonable effort to collaborate, effective communication, assisting the head of each respective Nevada department—and in some cases divisions—and implementing the policy depending on what the issue at hand is for the respective tribal nations. It also addresses representation. I am happy to announce, Chair Dondero Loop, we have not had an occasion where we needed to implement the resolution policy or procedures.

Another one of the responsibilities that is outlined in AB 264 is an annual summit. I do not know that the earlier presenter touched on this, so it is quite possible that maybe Nevada, once again, is ahead of the curve. The collaboration requires the governor meet at least once a year with all the leaders of our tribal nations. I can tell you that, because of the pandemic, summit is a little bit too grandiose a term. We have had Zoom meetings between our tribal leaders, Governor Sisolak, and specific members of his senior staff. I am happy to report that we have had some really good progress. I can tell you that in our last summit meeting, which will be a year ago March, when the governor asked what the governor's office and the State of Nevada can do to help all of our tribal nations, one of our tribal leaders—Chair Torres from the Walker River Paiute Nation—provided a suggestion that we needed help from this state to provide a comprehensive public service announcement campaign that was culturally appropriate to remind the nearly 80,000 tribal citizens and urban Indians in this state about the importance of COVID-19 mitigation, specifically about getting vaccinated. From that suggestion, NIC was able to work with several state organizations, some county organizations, and some different tribal nations, and we have come up with a highly effective and very well received campaign, everything from billboards to special tele-town halls. We have had 10,000 people participate in two tele-town halls that we had. They were live on Facebook and people could also call in. We have all kinds of social media messaging. It has really been wonderful. In fact, earlier this week I handed off another 300 of our amazing logos promoting vaccinations, specially designed by a native artist. They are off to northern Nevada to three tribal nations that are doing vaccination clinics. Anyone who gets vaccinated is going to get this special t-shirt.

The last box I have listed on this matrix is about the training. As you all might remember, the collaboration law now requires there be a cooperative effort between NIC and the Department of Human Resource Management to put on special professional development for state employees—not just the heads of our agencies, our executive directors, and directors—but for any Nevada employee who works with our tribal nations on a regular basis. The earlier speaker mentioned a Tribal 101. That is the aim in this part of the law. We want to make sure all of our state liaisons and our state directors have that baseline knowledge, not just how many tribal nations, but a basic history of all of the big four—the northern Paiute, southern Paiute, Washoe, and the western Shoshone. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic we have had to postpone this training, not once but twice. The NIC

identified two amazing Native American trainers: Dr. Debra Harry from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), she is a professor there; and Vice Principal Lynn Manning-John. She is a citizen of the Owyhee Duck Valley Sho-Pai Nation and currently the vice principal of their combined middle school. These ladies have a day and a half of presentation curriculum. We have not been able to find a time when it has been safe to get this large amount of people together.

I do have one other document I prefer to share with the Committee after the meeting (Agenda Item V A-4). Part of my responsibilities as executive director of NIC was that I was required to provide a list and update to the governor's office. What I am showing are bullet points of the milestones and the progress that we have made, so if you are interested and you really want to dig down, I am happy to share that with you, as well. Madam Chair, can we go ahead and open it up for questions?

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you so much. That was a lot of information and really great information. I appreciate all your hard work. We will go to Senator Neal and let her start off the questioning.

Senator Neal:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I was wondering how much federal assistance did you guys receive during the pandemic?

Ms. Montooth:

Thank you for that question, Senator. The NIC received exactly zero federal dollars. I can tell you that our cultural center, which was established thanks to the support of the Nevada Legislature; we did get two different federal grants. One came from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), and we received some funding from an organization; the acronym is [WESTAF](#). It is the Western Regional Arts Alliance—I apologize; I do not know the proper name—but the federal funding that NIC received for our cultural center was almost exactly an offset of the dollars that our agency lost because of the required general funding cutbacks that all our agencies endured. After declaring the state of emergency, the governor asked all of the directors to cut their General Fund, and we were able to do that; however, the other odd caveat about NIC, if you all have the opportunity, if you look at an organization chart for the state, NIC is actually under the purview of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA), and as a division of tourism, our funding comes from tourism transfers, which is actually tied to hotel-motel tax. As you all know, during the pandemic people were not staying in hotels and motels, so quickly I wanted to let you know that for NIC, the parent agency, my ballpark \$300,000 budget was cut by 25 percent with tourism transfers, and our \$300,000 budget for our cultural center was cut 65 percent because of the tourism transfers. We were able to apply for federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and from WESTAF, and we were able to replace just about \$150,000 so we were even-steven. Thank you for your question.

Senator Neal:

May I have another question?

Chair Dondero Loop:

Go ahead, Senator Neal, and then we will go to Assemblywoman Torres.

Senator Neal:

Thank you for that information. I definitely want to talk offline about room tax, but I wanted to ask the question. I do not know what federal assistance the indigenous tribes received, but I was wondering how the businesses were able to maintain themselves during the pandemic, whether or not there was that Small Business Administration (SBA) assistance that was being driven to the rest of our businesses, and whether or not you had actual direct access. I think this is a thick conversation, because I really was trying to understand what the access to assistance was that happened within the past two years, and if there is currently any change in that assistance to the indigenous tribes regarding health care, business—and at this point you mentioned food insecurity. I mean, there was a lot of activity that was going on in Nevada, and I am wondering what was the status or condition of what was going on within the tribal nations? That is a larger question and we might have to talk offline.

Ms. Montooth:

Thank you, Senator. That is a fantastic question, and I would welcome the opportunity to talk to you or any of your colleagues about how the pandemic has spotlighted and really brought to the forefront all the inequities, whether those be for essential services—health care, education, roads, and clean water. All of those inequities have been spotlighted by the pandemic. I am really happy to share with you that the State of Nevada really did and continues to do as much work as possible for our tribal nations. You mentioned specifically food inequity. Perhaps some of you saw the headlines just the other day; I had the honor of meeting with Governor Sisolak, as well as the executive director of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. That organization was recipient. Many of you had a hand in approving the budget. It is my understanding that the State of Nevada allocated some of its—I believe it was the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds—for not-for-profits that are already doing good work, and they already have their systems in place, and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada was one of those. Over the last year—not the entire pandemic—but just the last year, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada provided almost a million pounds in food to our northern and central tribal nations. They did that by delivering food boxes. They did that by allowing representatives of our tribal nations to come to their warehouse in Sparks to pick up food boxes. They did that through hosting and operating mobile food harvests, which focused on fresh fruits and vegetables. They were handing out gallons of milk and fresh produce to tribal citizens. That is just a little glimpse at some of the support that the state helped initiate for our tribal nations.

I know that Chief Fogerson is going to address you today. When it came to the vaccine, I would love to share with you that our tribal nations had an option. They were able to either work through the state or work with the federal government with Indian Health Service (IHS) to ensure they got the proper medications that they needed, and that they had the proper training to set up any kind of pop-up or put a system in place to vaccinate their citizens. The state, our emergency management, and our tribal liaisons for health and for emergency management were amazing at coming up with these very effective, very efficient and different procedures to ensure that any tribal residents or any tribal member who wanted to get vaccinated could get vaccinated. My tribal nation—the Walker River Paiute Nation—I as a citizen of their tribe had my second shot before the end of February a year ago, as did my 77-year-old mother. Our tribal nations did not mess around; they got their vaccinations rolled out, and it really was with huge support from our tribal nations. I hope that helps answer your question, Senator Neal.

Senator Neal:

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Senator Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. Assemblywoman Torres, please go ahead.

Assemblywoman Torres:

Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the presentation this morning. I just wanted to learn a little bit more about the structure right now. My understanding then from your comments earlier is that it is under DTCA. I am just trying to understand if there are any barriers that brings to the commission receiving funding, or just in daily operations, because it seems like that could be limiting.

Ms. Montooth:

With all due respect, it absolutely does. Our budget is built around getting funding from tourism, and that comes based on the taxes the state collects when people come to visit Nevada and enjoy the hospitality industry. Unlike most state budgets, the NIC, and I believe this is the case for all of the agencies under the tourism group's purview—state museums, the Nevada Arts Council—we do not start the fiscal year with our entire budget. It comes to us quarterly and is based on the fact that the state is collecting that money, and then they eventually transfer it to us. I am going to be very blunt. As the executive director of this agency, NIC was created by statute in 1965 to improve the quality of life for our 27 tribal nations and our urban Indians I mentioned earlier. Based on the 2022 Census we have a ballpark of 25,000 tribal citizens. Those are people who are enrolled members of 1 of our 27 Paiute, Shoshone, or Washoe nations, and there are at least 62,000 people who checked the box who say they are Native American; however, their indigenous territories are outside of the Great Basin. These are people who are connected to another federally recognized tribe—the Cherokee Nation, the Navajo Nation, the Sioux Nation—but they now choose to make their home in the State of Nevada. Trying to improve the quality of life for nearly 80,000 constituents, I most definitely lose sleep because my budget is so fluid, especially during a pandemic.

Assemblywoman Torres:

A quick follow up, if I may, Chair?

Chair Dondero Loop:

Yes, go ahead.

Assemblywoman Torres:

I am wondering, does its location under DTCA prevent the commission from receiving any grants, or is that not a barrier? I understand the other barriers that you mentioned earlier, but I want to understand whether or not being under the DTCA provides a barrier to receiving any federal funding or local funding?

Ms. Montooth:

No, not at all, but I want to tell you that I have a five-person staff. When we had to cut our funding all across the board in every agency in the state, the only way for NIC to keep our doors open at our cultural center was to vacate a position. During the pandemic, NIC has been a two-person operation, and I will be very blunt, I am trying to help our tribal leaders ensure that our people have broadband so that, as our school districts pivot to online learning, our kids do not have to sit in the parking lot at their tribal headquarters to do their homework. And to ensure when the folks from Yomba bring the borrowed horse trailer to collect their boxes of food from the food bank, that the dirt road has been graded so that they do not pop tires on the way back to their community center. With all due respect, Assemblywoman Torres, I do not have any time to write grants. I do not, honestly. I do not have time to fundraise. This is a sovereignty issue, and it is the responsibility of the federal government first and foremost, but also the Nevada government, too, to ensure the needs of the tribal citizens—the first caretakers of this land—are met.

Assemblywoman Torres:

I appreciate that. I look forward to reaching out to meet with you one-on-one so that we can talk about the additional steps forward that Nevada can take so that we can improve that for our tribal nations.

Ms. Montooth:

I look forward to it, as well. Thank you.

Senator Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. Additional questions from the Committee? In reference to the discussion we just had, are you aware of where other states place this same entity? Is it placed under tourism in other states? Do you know?

Ms. Montooth:

Thank you for that question, Madam Chair. I am familiar and Nevada is unique in so many ways. The NIC is the only agency that is under the purview of its tourism department in all of the country. Unfortunately, not every state has a dedicated staff or division for their indigenous population. Many are standalone agencies. At one point, just a couple of decades ago, NIC was under the purview of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which makes a little bit more sense to me. I think it is important that you know that the home for essential services for indigenous or Native American people, whether it be at a city, a county, a state, or even a federal level, has never been completely settled. I have the pleasure of speaking to a lot of different organizations about the history of indigenous people not only in the Great Basin but across the nation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs actually was born out of the Department of War, so finding a home has always had its challenges.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. That might be a really good question for me to double back with NCSL, and ask them how this is done in other states. It might be some good cross-referencing. Any additional questions from the Committee? Assemblywoman Brown-May, please go ahead.

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

Thank you, Ms. Montooth. I just want to follow up on that one statement you made about being previously allocated to DHHS. Are you familiar if your budget was more stable at that point? Was there more cooperation? Was that a better location in Nevada versus tourism? I am just curious to know if you can make that comparison.

Ms. Montooth:

I really appreciate that question, and I never like to say I do not know, but I really do not. I am happy to do some research, and I am very proud that I continue to use my predecessor as a resource. I am sure that the former Executive Director Sherry Rupert would provide me with some insight. It is my understanding that DHHS does not deal with transfers. They have hard money to begin their year, and that would help with a few sleepless nights for me, but I know that is a huge agency, as well. There is some value to being in tourism; I have a great relationship with Director Scolari. She completely understands that we are equals, that I am not a subordinate, that I, too, am a member of the governor's cabinet. But when it comes down to policies and procedures, Director Scolari still has to be involved with some of the everyday operations in NIC, so it is not the most prudent setup. Thank you again for the question.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. Additional questions? I do not see any additional questions. Thank you for your time. Thank you for the information. We look forward to, at least for myself, speaking with you further and working with you as we move forward. Thank you very much for your time today

Ms. Montooth:

It is I who should be thanking you. I really appreciate your time today. I did put my contact information in the chat including my cell phone. We all work 24/7 so please contact me anytime. Thank you very much.

AGENDA ITEM VI—OVERVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF THE MILITARY

Chair Dondero Loop:

We will turn our attention to emergency management. Today we have David Fogerson, Chief of the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and Office of Homeland Security in the Office of the Military.

In recent sessions, the Legislature approved several bills seeking to improve emergency management and homeland security in response to specific tragedies, like the events of October 1, numerous natural and manmade disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this presentation is to: (1) keep legislators abreast of issues related to emergency management in the interim period; (2) to receive updates on the implementation of recently passed initiatives; and (3) to identify any issues that may need to be addressed through future legislation.

Thank you for being with us today, Mr. Fogerson. Please go ahead when you are ready.

David W. Fogerson, Chief, DEM and Office of Homeland Security, Office of the Military:

Thank you very much, Chair. David Fogerson, the administrator for DEM and Office of Homeland Security for the State of Nevada. In the room with me I have our J-3 for the National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel Brett Compston. He is in charge of Domestic Operations for emergency management, kind of the guard version of emergency management and was very instrumental through our pandemic response. I am proud to introduce the newest General in the Nevada National Guard, General Michael Peyerl. He was just promoted on Friday and is in charge of Domestic Operations. We have Administrative Service Officer Jared Franco who came to us from Enterprise IT Services (EITS) about four weeks ago. Then I have Mark from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He is embedded here in our organization with us, and we will talk about what his role is as we get through the PowerPoint. We do have a group of people in case there are questions as we go along. If it is permissible, I would like to share my screen so that way I can get into our PowerPoint (Agenda Item VI).

Chair Donder Loop:

Please, go ahead.

Mr. Fogerson:

We are DEM, Office of Homeland Security. We recently moved to the Office of the Military on July 1 through the efforts of the Legislative Session. This picture here is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at one of our briefings we held last week for the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still meeting on a weekly basis to make sure that all of our partners are briefed as we keep moving forward with the pandemic.

We see DEM as Nevada's essential disaster coordinating partner. We build resilience through coordination and partnership. We use our mission: coordinate, prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover program resources through partnerships to build resilient communities for Nevada's residents and visitors. We talk a lot about partnerships, and you see a lot of pictures, like this one here at Elko Convention Center, where we are helping them with a COVID-19 pandemic vaccine distribution site. We do not do much work ourselves. Our job is to enable our local partners, nonprofits, and tribal nations to be able to do their work and to help with the federal government partnership that we have.

Some values we have within the organization: our number one value is stewardship. A lot of places want to have customer service as their value, but at DEM we do not want your house to get damaged by the same flood twice. We prefer to be stewards of our communities rather than customer service where we encourage you to come back to us and see us again at a future disaster. We also use integrity, innovation, collaboration, and teamwork. Our goals are looking for how we become better tomorrow than we are today. The pandemic has really shown us a lot of lessons for how employees want to work, and we are trying to find ways that we can recruit the best talent possible, making us the next century employer on how we make it more possible for people to work more efficiently and effectively for state service in ways that also meet their requirements. We really want to try to strengthen what we have built. Prior to COVID-19, not a lot of people knew what Emergency Management Homeland Security really was. I think we made a pretty decent name for ourselves through the pandemic, and so we do not want to lose that leverage that we have gotten, and we want to continue to move forward, so that way everyone can see what we can do and how

we can help. That is our job—not to do the work—but for the partners and to help coordinate that.

Our organizational chart—we are a very small but mighty division. Not quite as small as Director Montooth's, but we only have 40 state full-time equivalents (FTE). We do have 8 contract staff, and then in partnership with DHHS we have 3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) foundation employees that are embedded within the EOC. We have 2 from FEMA that are embedded with this, as well. It gives us a larger staff than what we currently have in our FTEs, but it also shows the partnerships that we have between DHHS and FEMA. We are blessed to have a FEMA Fit, and they called that position "The Fit,"; it is a FEMA-integrated technician. He is my right-hand man on how we get stuff from FEMA and translate some of the language, some of the abbreviations that are used at the federal government level, so we can learn how to work more collaboratively together. Our second full-time embedded FEMA employee is a tribal liaison officer who used to be an employee of ours, and then she took employment with FEMA; we were able to retain her. I will talk about her role here towards the end of the presentation. In our organization, General Barry is our director. I am the chief and we have two sides. We have an operation side that is led by Deputy Chief Jon Bakkedahl who is on a very well-earned vacation this week for the last couple years for the efforts he has taken through the pandemic.

We subdivided into three sections. We have preparedness, and this is where we do planning operations, training, and exercises. Our goal is to prepare our communities for that next disaster, and then to look at disasters that happen to see how we get better in the future. That position was Jon's before he came on as deputy chief. We interviewed three weeks ago, and we are just waiting for some final motions to make the official announcement on who gets that position. The other part we have is mission support, and we retitled it to mission support to make it the same as what FEMA calls it. This is radios, technology, computers, facilities, and all the stuff that makes our ability to do stuff—the interoperable communication piece that we hear so often from the September 11 days. Then we have mitigation. Mitigation used to be much lower in our organization, and we have elevated up, because mitigation is where we buy down our risks for the future. It is how we better prepare Nevada to become resilient. It is items like strengthening dams, providing earthquake structure reinforcement for city halls, doing flood mitigation projects, and we are looking now at the next level on how do we get into the climate change to reduce the wildfire risk and to reduce the heat risk in our urban communities.

Our other side of the organization, Jared Franco, as I said he just came to us about three weeks ago from EITS; he is our brand-new Administrative Services Officer. We have done a reorganization on that side where he is now responsible for grants in the physical shop. We have two different types of grants. We have the recurring grants, because we have homeland security grants, emergency management performance grants, and Department of Energy grants. Every year all our partners put in for those grants and we manage those grant processes. We also must do a recovery grant program, and right now there is about \$200 million for local, tribal, and nonprofits that we are working through. That is to reimburse the money they spent through the pandemic and help them get back 75 to 100 percent of their costs of what they have done. A good example of that is the Renown parking garage that they turned into an alternate care site. That is one of our recovery projects we are working with them on. On the fiscal side, not to undermine it, but it is the typical state fiscal admin side where they actually make sure everything works correctly for us. With the 40 FTEs, our 8 contractors, and 3 foundation employees, we are about 44th in the nation for size of a division emergency management. Most state emergency management organizations are much larger than what ours is.

The process we use to do emergency management is always prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover. This slide here shows the Wells earthquake. It shows flooding in downtown Reno, and it makes it look like it is this nice cyclic process that continues to go, but when we look at the different disasters that Nevada faces, some of these work, and some of these do not work. Obviously, we cannot prevent that earthquake, but we can work to protect, mitigate, respond, and recover that earthquake. We can look at preventing some disasters or preventing the impact of those disasters, such as the recent hostage situation we had in Texas with the synagogue. We now looked into if we have similar issues here, and how do we prevent that from happening? We can prevent that from happening using some federal grant money for nonprofits and for our faith-based communities to improve those facilities through training or building equipment that would make it safer for them to be there. This is the process we use as best we can, and it changes every few years because this is a federal process that they come up with. When I first started emergency management 15 years ago, it was four: plan, prevent, respond, and recover. Then every couple years we will add some and we will take some away, so it does ebb and flow as we advance this profession that we know as the DEM and Homeland Security enterprise.

This picture here is our training exercise staff. Rodney Wright is our State Exercise Officer. Lori DeGristina on the right is our State Training Officer, and then Darlene Loff is our Administrative Assistant for the two of them. These three people are responsible for figuring out how we train, and how we then exercise for that next disaster that Nevada might face. We look at larger scale disasters, and we try to model an exercise based on those things to see what we need to do better. How can we get better? We are one of the few agencies that probably want to tell people where we failed, because when we find failure, that means we can use this model called POETE where we can plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise to fix that problem. Because if we can fix that problem, we buy down our risk, and we make Nevada a more resilient community as we move forward.

Our mantra we always try to work for, is that emergencies are locally executed, state directed, and federally supported. Take the wildland fire, for example, at the top. The local government is responsible to go fight the fire. At the state level, we have some responsibilities to assist our local partners, but we are probably not going to get out there and do those efforts to extinguish the fire, but we're going to help support on the consequence management pieces. If you look at the Caldor Fire that we had this summer where we had to worry about evacuation, sheltering, traffic control, and all those other components that went into that, that is now how we get into the mix to help that. We look to our federal partners for staffing, financial, and technical advice through our partnerships. The picture here is two of our Nevada National Guard members who are embedded in our EOC right now through the pandemic. Our CDC Foundation employee and two FEMA staff members are working through some logistics needs where someone has ordered some equipment that was taken out from one of the two warehouses that we have in the state right now.

2021 in review, we used to always think that disasters never happened in Nevada. 2017 was a big year when we had two floods in the same year. Then 2020 came and 2021 came. I am hoping that 2022 does not try to make 2021 look irrelevant because think of what we have done through in the state with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Emergency Management, along with our National Guard partners, are running two warehouses, trying to get that down to a single warehouse. When COVID-19 started, DHHS and public health preparedness folks had a storage unit with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) leftover from H1N1. Our goal in working in collaboration with DHHS is to make sure we do not get caught flat-footed again and to keep a 60-day stock of PPE for the next disaster we know is going to happen.

The GOTVax mission was a huge outreach effort that was a nonprofit local, state, and federal mission in southern Nevada. Where we work with Southern Nevada Health District, Clark County Office of Emergency Management, FEMA, and then FEMA was able to bring in some nonprofit partners. We used the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). We went to our social vulnerability index communities and helped encourage them to get vaccinated, and then opened pop-up vaccine sites for these folks to go out and get vaccinated. It was probably our largest effort the division has ever taken, and kind of made us cross that line between locally executed or state guided, because our local government partners did not have the resources to take that on, and they asked us to do that. Mobile vaccines units, as Director Montooth talked about, we ran two mobile vaccines units through rural Nevada and tribal Nevada. We made sure anybody who needed a vaccine could get a vaccine regardless of their socioeconomic status, diversity equity, and inclusion. We went to go meet them where they were with these mobile vaccine units and that partnership. Testing sites, vaccinators, we went as far as getting United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians to come in and help us with vaccinations; it gave a whole new definition for us for herd immunity within the state when you start talking about a veterinarian giving those vaccines. We worked with the federal coordination to make sure that everybody had what they needed. The big part of that is that grant support our to local governments, tribal nations, and nonprofit groups.

Last year we had the Highway 50 snow closure where no one could leave northern Nevada because of the snow right after Christmas, and then at 8 p.m. we realized we are supposed to get another foot of snow up at the lake, and the temperatures are freezing, and traffic was not moving. We had to declare a disaster and evacuate those folks, open warming shelters, and help them find another way out. The Caldor Fire was a threat and burned into Lake Tahoe Basin. It never hit Nevada, but burned into Lake Tahoe and caused California to have to evacuate into Nevada. The first time where the state had to kind of lean forward to our counties and ask them to open up shelters and make a plan instead of the counties asking us. They had to work cooperatively with, not only the State of California where they had representatives in our EOC and they had state representatives in their state EOC, but also with Carson, Lyon, Douglas, and Washoe on where we are going to put these people when that incident happened.

The Tamarack Fire, Nye County flash flooding, all those earthquakes we had in northern Nevada. The earthquake in Elko, and then so many search and rescue incidents where we supported our local sheriffs' departments on getting them aviation assets, paying for resources, and finding them the help they need to go find those people who are lost in Nevada. In the two special events we run—New Year's Eve and Inauguration Day—where we partnered with the National Guard to make sure that we are ready should anything happen within our state and keep everyone safe.

There are two bills that were passed in last Session that I want to talk about. One was [Assembly Bill 14](#) (2021). This is our planning staff: Bill Elliott; Corinne Roth, who is one of our CDC foundation employees; and Megan Hall. This is our northern Nevada planning staff, and they are going through the plan there in our state EOC. Assembly Bill 14 was a division-sponsored bill last Session. We wanted to align the meeting frequencies for three of our public bodies: (1) the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC); (2) the Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council (NTEC); and (3) the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee. The Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee was asked to meet monthly when it was first made a couple legislative cycles ago. We had a lot of meetings to meet, but not a lot of meaningful meetings because we did not have time to actually put the effort in on the board member side and the division side. We have made NTEC and NRAC both meet quarterly, and now we can have time to actually have really good discussions and

not just meeting to meet. The State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee had some changes made to it under AB 14 and was to allow the state to be the state, and local to be the local. The State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee was first used during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was really looking at mass fatalities. We found that it put the state into the business of our county coroners and medical examiners. We did some changes to that law to make it more clear on what was the state's role versus local role, and we are going to come back next legislative cycle to look at some additional changes that will make it easier for local governments to receive protected health information post disaster to help that disaster identification.

Our other big bill from last Session, and probably my most proud one, is [AB 485](#) (2021). This transition of the division to the Office of the Military. To me there is no better bill that we had last Session than this one. That is a picture of General Berry there with one of our employees. As a three-month state employee, she led the GOTVax effort and knocked it out of the park for us, and General Berry, at one of the award presentations we had in southern Nevada, presented her with the General's coin as a thanks for her outstanding efforts in that.

Assembly Bill 485 allowed us to align the mission for both the guard and for DEM. We really do work very collectively. Brett Compston, the Domestic Operations Colonel, and myself kind of have the same role, just whether it is with the National Guard or civilian authorities. Aligning those missions have made this a lot better for us and allowed us to grow as we try to meet the challenges of the state. It also provided an unintended consequence for us at the division; it gave us a hiring pool. Only one-third or one-fourth of our National Guard members are actual full-time employees, so it opened up their eyes to come to work now for the state at the division, and then it also opened up their ability to come to work for us when they retire from federal military service. It has made it easier for me as a chief to talk to our local government partners, especially through COVID-19, when we have had National Guard requests, because I did not have to go and get trained up on what the National Guard did. I was able to walk down the hallway and talk to my partners. Some of those things were very obviously what we needed to do—testing sites, vaccination sites—and other ones that might not have fit so well in the COVID-19 pandemic, such as school bus drivers, or manage a homeless shelter, or being substitute teachers. This enabled us to be a little more embedded so that way we could speak the same language. It allowed our local government partners to become more embedded and understand what the National Guard can actually do to help them.

The other piece I want to talk about, and this ties directly into Director Montooth's conversation, we also have the Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council. This Council has representatives from tribal nations and from emergency management at the state, along with public health preparedness. It has been a great partnership that was done two sessions ago, I believe. State health pays for one employee to do public health preparedness, and the division pays for the second employee to do emergency management strictly with our tribal nations. Both are right now contract positions, and this might be something that we seek to change next legislative cycle, because the funding seems to be fairly stable, to see about moving them to state full-time employment instead of contractors. Our current two that we have here—Jay and Josie—they are both tribal members, and they both are very dedicated to figuring out how to make Nevada more resilient, regardless of whether that tribal nation is on a border fully within the state, has gone to FEMA for help, or is asking the State of Nevada for help.

The third part of that wheel we have there is Crystal. Crystal is the FEMA employee that is the tribal liaison, and she was not available yesterday when we took this picture. She used

to be a state employee, and has now moved on to FEMA. We have three employees embedded that do nothing but help our tribal nations and DEM come to some better understandings and agreements on what we need to do to make our tribal nations better.

Those quarterly discussions, NTEC really does the same thing as NRAC but with a little more focus on how does this procedure, how does this process, how does this help our tribal nations? How do we make that better? Josie and Jay are both NIC participants, and Crystal goes to those meetings, as well. That way we are planning, working, and building that facility in that partnership to make us better as a state.

I would not be in emergency management if I did not ask you if you had a kit. Do you and your family have a plan and a kit to survive for 72 hours? Seventy-two hours is kind of old school. Now they are saying that we are supposed to be prepared for two weeks. I know a lot of people have some socioeconomic factors when trying to put two weeks worth of food, water, and all that aside. But where you are sitting right now, if we had a no-notice disaster like an earthquake, do you have comfortable shoes to get out of the building with? Do you have food and water, so that way you can take care of yourself and not have to call 9-1-1 and rely upon us to come help you? I would encourage you to visit our [website](#) or go to [ready.gov](#) to see how you can get yourself prepared for these disasters. In Nevada, we are worried about earthquakes, wildfires, floods, severe storms, extreme heat, drought, and the pandemic.

We always welcome tours in EOC, and I am open with my staff for any questions that you would like to ask, because we want to know how we can help you make this better. Thank you

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you so much. That was really great information; although, some of it sad that we have to prepare like this for all these emergencies. I see Senator Goicoechea's hand up. Please, go ahead.

Senator Goicoechea:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Fogerson, I really appreciate all the work you did over the last couple of years, especially when I reached out to you a lot with some of the rural issues. I guess my concern is, I know as we are starting to see this pandemic eventually kind of decline, I know you have a lot of supplies laid in. You guys have done a great job. My concern is if we going to end up with a lot of stuff in the warehouse. Some of it is clearly dated products, like the vaccines that we cannot store. I am curious about the plans going forward, whether it be the tribal nations and local government health districts. Are we going to be able to shift some of that stuff and allow them to have that on hand going forward?

Mr. Fogerson:

Through the Chair to the Senator, thank you very much for the question. It is very much at the front of my conversation we have been having for last 18 months. We do have a warehousing plan right now in the state. We do have two warehouses, one in north and one in south. By July 1, we will have everything in the southern Nevada warehouse. Our goal is to maintain 60 days worth of PPE in that warehouse for the future and to try to push everything else out. We will have some things that do not need that, like gowns. Early in the pandemic, gowns were really asked for a lot, so the federal government shipped out

tons of gowns to everybody. Now everyone has a surplus of gowns because no one uses them anymore. So the majority of product will be stayed. One of the nice things we found is the Department of Purchasing is looking for a new warehouse. They are selling their warehouse in southern Nevada because it was broken into, and they have the ability to maintain a stock and sell equipment to other state agencies. We also found the Department of Corrections used a lot of PPE, and so the plan is that we have that warehouse in southern Nevada run by the Purchasing Division and then Department of Corrections buys their PPE from Purchasing. That way we keep that 60-day stock fresh all the time. Those expiring things such as gloves, things that would rot away, we can actually use in the state, so we will not make a profit on it, but we also will not lose money, and we will be ready for the next disaster.

Senator Goicoechea:

Thank you. It sounds like you are going to rotate the stock through state agencies. I was wondering if maybe we could pick up a little more for some of these rural health districts and the tribal nations. Thank you.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. I see Assemblywoman Brown-May in the queue and then Vice Chair Flores, and then we will go to Senator Neal.

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is relative to emergency evacuation sites in communities. Do we have a list currently of evacuation sites that are available for our neighbors and our communities? Are there school sites that are used or other community organizations? Where can I find a list of that?

Mr. Fogerson:

To the Assemblywoman through the Chair, another good question. Evacuation sites are the responsibility of our local government partners because they know their communities. If we maintain that list at the state level, we would not be able to keep it up to date because of all the changes that occur. Some local governments are very good about sharing those and some local governments actually want to keep those close to their chest because they are worried about secondary incidents and stuff like that. But also we do not want to tell everyone to go to the community center if you need to be evacuated, and because the route to get there is blocked by the hazardous material spill, they are going to open up the school instead. So, a lot of times those are "just-in-time" announcements rather than preplaced announcements. Our other issue is with schools. Schools used to always be a big part that we could use, especially in the summertime for wildland fires. Now as we see year-round schools, they are kind of less apt to be used as evacuation sites. Now we are looking at community centers, churches, other government buildings, and stuff like that.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Does that answer your question, Assemblywoman? Okay, thank you. Vice Chair Flores, please go ahead.

Vice Chair Flores:

Thank you, Madam Chair. If I may, I have two questions that kind of go in two different directions. Thank you for the presentation. I think often folks on our side of the conversation—those elected and other folks who have an opportunity to serve—one of the things we talk about is how pre-pandemic there often was a lot of pushback around having and engaging in conversations of preparing for possible emergencies. Or folks just said, “That is unnecessary.” Those expenditures were often seen as something that was not immediately the correct path for us to pursue. I do not know what other way to frame it. Since the pandemic, what has been your relationship with other agencies and the overall consensus in the community? Do you have a better read? Are folks now a lot more receptive to messaging about being better prepared overall? I am curious to see how the shift has been pre-pandemic/post-pandemic and you being able to do your job effectively, and folks on our side being more willing to cooperate and work with you.

Mr. Fogerson:

To the vice chair through the chair. Thank you for the question. I think it has ebbed and flowed through the pandemic, as we have seen in the media. As people have gone through the pandemic at certain times, maybe we were more engaged with people wanting to do some of those things. I think we are going to see that come back to fruition here as we start to wean ourselves from the emergency response phase. My biggest take away from it all is that DEM earned their street cred. Before, we were the chicken littles—there is going to be an earthquake someday or a flood someday. Now people saw that it is not just some people in a room with some grant money, but there are some operators and there is some grant money and building relationships. General Peyrel, myself, Jared, and Colonel Compton already have road trips planned to introduce the General and Jared to all of our rural partners, and then also meet with Clark and Washoe counties. That is where the relationship matters, and meeting to get people to understand what the need is. It is that fine line between having enough to be prepared but not over-killing to have wasteful spending, and then have a warehouse full of stuff you are not going to use. That is a dicey line because you are either going to be right or wrong when that disaster strikes, and then you are going to be judged for it. I do think the conversations have been much better that I have seen, and I will ask you guys in the room: do you guys see the conversations being better today than they were a couple years ago?

[inaudible]

Vice Chair Flores:

Thank you for that. That is kind of what I was hoping to get to. I am hoping this Committee can continue to help keep that relationship strong, and we help be a mouthpiece for some of those concerns, because I think folks do forget quickly. Like I said, having some of these conversations two years ago, folks would just say, “Oh you are just over exaggerating; you are always scared,” or XYZ. This gives an opportunity to continue to build on that momentum. The only other question I wanted to touch upon was you mentioned there was a need for hopefully coming back next Session and proposing new legislation. I think the issue that we were trying to address was how to receive information easier, and how to move information. If you could just elaborate a little bit on that, and the only reason I am asking this question—and my memory may be foggy—but I thought that was some of the work we had done in the past, which specifically geared as allowing for information to flow and communication flow, but if you could shed some light on that.

Mr. Fogerson:

Dave Fogerson for the record. Absolutely, vice chair. The issue is having to get all the lawyers together to figure out what they like best is that language to share that information. What we are looking at, is if another October 1 event happens, how do we get that information from each of those hospitals back to the local emergency operations center? We have the route that if it is a Nexus, if it is a gunshot wound, then they have to report it. There is an NRS that says they have to report to the state certain disasters if the person was injured in a disaster. What we are going to try to do is move that and work with the Nevada Hospital Association and our hospital partners. How do we make this better so that way it does not come to the state but goes to Clark County Emergency Management, Southern Nevada Health District, Washoe County corners office, or medical examiner's office? How do we make that tie better rather than having to loop it to us, and then us having to loop it back down? We just want to try to clean that process up to streamline that and make it easier for folks and have language that everyone feels comfortable with that meets the federal intent, so we are not sharing information we should not share, but we are sharing information that we need to share.

Vice Chair Flores:

Sounds good, and thank you again for the presentation. Thank you for the questions, Madam Chair.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you. Senator Neal you are next.

Senator Neal:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have two and a half questions because it kind of goes on what Senator Goicoechea was saying. You mentioned in your presentation about the kits, and I was wondering, if you guys have the inventory, is it possible to try to help build kits for individuals using some of those resources to try to, at least, do jumpstarts on kits? I know I was making a joke that I still have a flashlight and some batteries and some advent candles, but we will see how those work in a disaster, my old Catholic candles. I really do not have a kit. My daughter has a first aid kit because she thinks she is going to bleed to death one day, but that is it. I think the rest of us are kind of in that same situation. I was just wondering about that around the inventory, and then I am going to ask a legitimate question and quit joking. You mentioned the coroner, and I was wondering what was the coordination between the coroner with the pandemic and the deaths? I remember hospitals being overrun—probably not as bad as California or Los Angeles County where the bodies were hanging outside of the hospital, which was atrocious—but I remember even funeral homes being overloaded, and my biggest fear was that there were not enough places for bodies to go. I was wondering if that happened in Nevada, and what was the coordination around that issue?

Mr. Fogerson:

Great question, Senator. David Fogerson for the record. On your first one, the family and the emergency supply kits, that is something we can look at to see with some of the mitigation funds if we can work on a project like that. We obviously want to encourage our local government partners to take them first, and we do that a lot through the Citizen Corps program and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We have one in southern Nevada, eastern Nevada, Douglas County, Carson City, Washoe, and Storey. Not

only do you go for a two-day class to learn about disasters and how you can survive it, but then they normally will send you home with a kit that we purchased through federal grant funds. That way you can be ready for that next disaster. We are going to have a conversation when we have a conference next week, a summit, with all of our partners in Clark County; we are going to have a little sidebar conversation about how we improve that program, because one of the drawbacks of that program is that in Nevada, we found it attracts the elderly to that program. When the pandemic came, we needed to use volunteers to help us, so we turn to our CERTs, and all of them are in the at-risk population. I want to see how we expand our CERTs to using more teen CERTs, more high school CERTs, more college CERTs, and get a well-rounded mix of people that we could use in that scenario.

On your question of mass fatality, I have been privy to some discussions that I never before thought I would have to be privy to in my life. One of the blessings that we have is that the State Disaster in Education Coordinating Committee is not subject to the Open Meeting Law. I always wondered why, and then when we were talking about the extremes that we were ready to go should we need to be there, I realized why we probably do not want to have those discussions with mortuaries and medical examiners in a public setting, when we are talking about how to entomb bodies and take care of them post disaster. We were meeting on a monthly to quarterly basis and keeping track of fatality counts in each community. We were at one point meeting every day with every emergency manager through a coordination call, and then went to a weekly coordination call, which has now gone to a monthly coordination call where we keep track of that to see what they need. We helped eastern Nevada get some special storage units to store bodies in the event that their system was overrun. Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner got some, as well. That group is led by the Clark County coroner and the Washoe County medical examiner, and having those conversations on how do we dispose of the bodies; how do we store them? We are all up to date on that process, and it was a very morbid conversation every time we had to have those meetings. I hope that answered your question.

Senator Neal:

Madam Chair, can I have a follow up?

Chair Dondero Loop:

Please, go ahead.

Senator Neal:

It kind of answers the question. You have been around for a while; remember the 2015 bill on mutual aid? Mutual aid coordination and it is around emergency disaster? One of the provisions in the bill in 2015 when it passed said that when there is mutual aid between agencies—it could be it interagency or intra-agencies—there is supposed to be a record of the kind of aid that is requested and that occurred. Is that documented? The requests between agencies around taking care of someone's loved one who passed during the pandemic, getting those numbers, getting those fatalities, understanding what had to happen, the costs that were incurred around that activity, and any reimbursements that may have been requested around that activity? That bill spelled out some caveats around what mutual aid should record within the State of Nevada, and it seems like we were doing a lot of that during the pandemic, and that bill, although pre-pandemic, really set the stage for the behavior and the monitoring that should occur.

Mr. Fogerson:

Senator, David Fogerson, and absolutely that is [Chapter 414A](#) of NRS, it is the Nevada intrastate mutual aid compact and it mirrors what we do on a national level, being able to do interstate; like going to California and assist them. What it did was make every local government an automatic partner in that mutual aid plan regardless of whether they are a fire protection district, a school board, or a county. Prior legislation only had counties involved, and so you could not go to a general improvement district and borrow something from them with the same liability protection and reimbursement schedule because it was not the right component unit of government. That bill really led the stages. If you look back at some things, especially on what Caleb Cage led the division through and moved us to, we set the stage for the pandemic response in those efforts through the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee doing Chapter 414A of NRS, and then using them a few times through wildland fire and that kind of stuff. Our problem with the pandemic was there was not mutual aid to be had because everyone was in the same boat, and so we were not doing mutual aid. We were doing more assistance by hire where the local government asked the state where we can find three containment units for bodies, and then we would source out to our federal partners or our local government. Or say we need more body bags, and then we source out to the federal government. We do track all that, not through the mutual aid process, but through a computer program we call WebEOC where every request has to be approved by the county emergency manager, then it comes into the EOC where it gets worked by our logistics and operation staff, and finally approved by the EOC manager, so we track it that way.

Senator Neal:

Madam Chair, can I ask one last question?

Chair Dondero Loop:

Please, go ahead.

Senator Neal:

This kind of ties into a statement that you just made. For your CDC foundation staff, what is the grant length of time that they are there? I know the CDC foundation staff can have their contracts get renewed, so how long are they going to be assisting, and what areas are they assisting in? Will you be able to compensate if their grant is not continued after 2022?

Mr. Fogerson:

Senator, Dave Fogerson. Another great question. I was asking the room here at the same time as you were asking question. My recollection is it is between 18 months and 3 years, but I am not positive on that time frame of what we have got with the CDC foundation folks. I know that DHHS was also able to take advantage of that, and they upped the ante because of the pandemic, but the CDC foundation always has disability in these positions. The three new positions we are using are specifically with COVID-19. One is to run COVID-19 operations for us, and they are housed in southern Nevada in Clark County. They are meeting with our partners to make sure they have got all the resources they need on that healthcare side. We have a logistics person here in the state EOC who is working on the warehousing, so when someone requests PPE, this person is responsible for filling those orders, and then our contract staff in the warehouses are filling those orders for him. Our third one we use is a data analyst person, and we have assigned her to plans division. She was actually a contractor in our grant division, and we moved her over to the CDC

foundation because she has got a wealth of knowledge and has a masters in Geographic Information Systems (GIS); she was able to start helping us with some of that 'where is the problem at?' and 'what time?' We are trying to get—and it is never going to be scientific—but we are trying to predict where the next wave is going to be and what the time frame is between when it hits southern Nevada versus northern Nevada versus rural Nevada. That way maybe we can be a step ahead of this in the future. I am assuming these three positions would stay until the funding ran out or until we no longer need them for their roles, and we can assume their roles elsewhere within the organization because the pandemic really died down. So, either when funding runs out or the end of the pandemic, and we can all giggle about when the end of the pandemic is going to occur based upon all the stuff that we have seen.

Senator Neal:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. Additional questions from the Committee? Senator Goicoechea, go ahead.

Senator Goicoechea:

Just one quick one, Dave. I hope you can order up a flood for central Nevada, thank you.

David Fogerson:

Senator, David Fogerson, I would love to figure out a way to end the drought and get that flood.

Chair Dondero Loop:

It would be great if we could know ahead of time that the flood was coming. Thank you very much. Additional questions from the Committee? Seeing none, Mr. Fogerson, thank you for that information and thank you for all you do. I know that you are in that hurry-up-and-wait category, and then when it happens it is like you have to be two steps ahead of everything that has already happened. I appreciate all you and your team do, and certainly know that in this pandemic world, you have done yeoman's work, so thank you very much.

AGENDA ITEM VII—UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 376 (2021) REGARDING POLICIES RELATED TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Chair Dondero Loop:

We will move on to Agenda Item VII, which is an update on the implementation of AB 376. Today, we have Leslie Nino Piro, General Counsel with the Office of the Attorney General to provide an update on their progress towards implementing certain sections of the bill. Good morning and thank you for being here. Please, go ahead when you are ready.

Leslie M. Nino Piro, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General:

Good morning. For the record, I am Leslie Nino Piro. I will share my screen here (Agenda Item VII). Thank you, Madam Chair Dondero Loop, Vice Chair Flores, and

Committee members. I am here today to provide an update on AB 376, the model policies relating to immigration enforcement. I will provide a very brief summary of the provisions for the model policies relating to immigration and talk a little bit about the Office of the Attorney General's progress in drafting those model policies and our next steps.

Assembly Bill 376, known as the Keep Nevada Working Act, has three model parts. I know Professor Michael Kagan was here last month talking about the first of those, which was to make fiscal appropriations to the immigration clinic at William S. Boyd School of Law, my alma mater, to provide pro bono services. The second was creating that Keep Nevada Working Task Force within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and I will briefly touch on that. I will let the lieutenant governor's office provide its own update for the task force. Then the third of those was to task the attorney general's office with publishing model policies related to immigration, to law enforcement agencies state and local, and places of public accommodation—schools, health care facilities, and courts.

The task force is comprised of nine members: the lieutenant governor; seven members appointed by the lieutenant governor; and one member jointly appointed by the governor and the Office for New Americans. The task force members represent a very broad cross section of the community, and this includes immigrant advocacy groups, business associations, labor groups, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations to name a few. Section 20.6 of AB 376 outlines model policies for law enforcement. It requires the attorney general to consult with relevant stakeholders and the task force to create these model policies that will provide guidance and training recommendations to local and state law enforcement to provide a framework and tools for best possible decisions at the local level.

The goals of these model policies are to foster trust between the community, the state, and local law enforcement agencies to limit state and local law enforcement engagement with federal immigration authorities, but also to do that within the construct of state and federal law.

Moving on to Section 20.9 of AB 376, which is the model policies for schools, healthcare facilities, and the courts. This has this same consultation requirement between stakeholders and the task force in our office, it has the same goals with respect to building safety and accessibility for the public, and to provide equal protection for all of Nevada's residents regardless of their immigration status. As the state's top law enforcement officer, Attorney General (AG) Aaron Ford wants these model policies to encourage victims of crimes to report criminal activity to law enforcement agencies, and then to testify in court against the perpetrators of those crimes without fear of immigration consequences for speaking out. That goal aligns with the AG's office motto: Our job is justice.

Within the statute it does say that safety and accessibility is the goal of this model policy. Going beyond the schools, healthcare facilities, and the courts Section 20.9 Subsection 3 encourages other physical or mental health and wellness education and access to justice organizations to adopt policies that are consistent with those the AG's office publishes. It models the same language that is in the previous section. In September of last year, former Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall announced appointments to the task force. We have the names of these task force appointees who have already been named to this commission on the screen. Unfortunately, the task force's progress was delayed in 2021, due to persistent obstacles posed by COVID-19 and the transition of the former lieutenant governor to the Biden administration. Now the task force is moving forward with the recent appointment of Lieutenant Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead. Two more appointments will be made to the task force by March 15.

I know you have asked me to come here and give you an update on the current status of the model policies. The AG's office has conducted the preliminary research and is currently drafting the model policies. The task force is scheduled to convene for the first time on March 15. We are excited about that because that is what is going to move all of this forward and get the publication of these model policies out there to the public. That is once the task force convenes, the AG's office will be able to actually get into the consultation portion of this process, meet with the task force and other relevant stakeholders, and give the publication moving forward. That is the next step we are looking forward to working with the lieutenant governor and her task force on the model policies.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much, and I know the lieutenant governor could not be here today, and we will wait to hear from that office, as well. Do we have any questions? Any questions or thoughts about this particular presentation?

I do not see any, and I really appreciate that. We may at some point ask for a call back when the lieutenant governor comes back in and presents. We may ask you to weigh in on that day, but I will let you know. This was really good information to have as an update today. Thank you very much.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—PUBLIC COMMENT

[Chair Dondero Loop reviewed the ways to provide public comment, all of which are listed on the agenda, and that public comment is limited to three minutes.]

Chair Dondero Loop:

BPS, go ahead when you are ready.

BPS:

Chair, the public line is open and working, but there are no callers at this time.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much. I will go ahead and then I will just check to make sure that there is no one on the line.

One of those items is the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15. The April meeting will be changed from April 12 to April 19 to accommodate spring break, so please note that on your calendars—the April 12 meeting will be April 19. Before we adjourn I will double back to BPS and make sure that we do not have anybody on the line.

BPS:

Chair, the line is still open and working, and there are no callers.

Jered McDonald:

Excuse me, Chair. I did want to draw attention that we did receive public comments through email, and is posted on our website if the Committee would like to take a look at that. I just wanted to make you aware of that, and we can include that in the record. Thank you.

Eli Schwartz, Member, Nevada Commissions for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Schwartz submitted written public comment (Agenda Item VIII A).

Steven Cohen, Alumni, Lee Business School, University of Nevada, Las Vegas:

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Cohen submitted written public comment (Agenda Item VIII B).

Chair Dondero Loop:

Thank you very much for that reminder that we have public comment on the website. We will make sure to go back and review that. Any additional comments from the Committee? Thank you all for your time today and your good questions and listening.

AGENDA ITEM IX—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Andersen
Research Policy Assistant

Jered M. McDonald
Senior Principal Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item IV	Martha Saenz, Associate Director, Quad Caucus and Women's Legislative Network, National Conference of State Legislatures	PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item V A-1	Stacey Montooth, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission	Nevada State-Tribal Collaboration
Agenda Item V A-2	Stacey Montooth, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission	Contact List for State of Nevada Departments and Tribal Liaisons
Agenda Item V A-3	Stacey Montooth, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission	Contact List for Tribal Nations and Organizations
Agenda Item V A-4	Stacey Montooth, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission	Impact of Tribal Consultation
Agenda Item VI	David W. Fogerson, Chief, Division of Emergency Management and Office of Homeland Security, Office of the Military	PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item VII	Leslie M. Nino Piro, General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General	PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item VIII A	Eli Schwartz, Member, Nevada Commissions for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Public Comment
Agenda Item VIII B	Steven Cohen, Nevada resident	Public Comment

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