

# NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting  
Friday, November 22, 2024, 9:30am

**NACO Offices**  
**304 S. Minnesota Street**  
**Carson City, NV 89703**

## ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Vice President Gardner, Past President Higbee, Clark County Commissioner Kirkpatrick, Lander County Commissioner Helming, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Andriola, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp, Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Jennifer Berthiaume and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Vinson informed the Board of a typo on agenda item 11, noting that it is 340B not 304B. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Commissioner Andriola.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi discussed the success of the Annual Conference and thanked the Board members that were able to attend. He then informed the Board that he and Commissioner Kirkpatrick had participated in the new legislator training held the previous day and noted that the newly elected legislators in attendance appeared interested in the content and asked thoughtful questions about county government. He also noted that while Vinson's presentation had been cut short, many of the attendees were surprised at the lack of local input in the process of awarding tax abatements.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board that registration for the 2025 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference had opened and encouraged attendance. He also noted that the conference would take place in the first week of March and that Congress would be in session which will allow for meetings with the members. Vinson also mentioned the annual Nevada dinner that would be held for conference attendees. He concluded his remarks by reminding the Board that the December meeting will be held in Clark County on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Clark County Government Center, noting that information on the meeting had previously been emailed and there was also printed information available for those in attendance (at the meeting) in person.
5. **Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
6. **Final Update Regarding the 2024 NACO Annual Conference.** Amanda thanked Carson City for hosting the event and referred the Board to the financial breakdown included in the agenda packet. She informed the Board that over 170 people attended the conference, there were a total of 24 sponsors with 16 exhibiting, and concluded her update by informing the

Board that all the presentations given during the conference had been uploaded to the NACO website. Commissioner Keller informed the Board that Lyon county had full Commissioner attendance and that his fellow Commissioners had indicated that attendance had elevated the importance of the work NACO does on behalf of counties.

7. **Discussion and Selection of Host County for the 2025 NACO Annual Conference.** Vinson drew the Board's attention to the list of previous conference hosts included in the agenda packet and noted that the 2023 conference was hosted by Elko County, a typo which had been corrected. He informed the Board that it had been five years since the conference had been held in an urban county and ten years since Clark County had hosted. After speaking with Commissioner Kirkpatrick, the staff's recommendation was to hold the 2025 Annual Conference in Clark County. President Elect Andreozzi and Commissioner Keller both remarked that they felt it was appropriate to have the event in an urban county. Clark County was approved as the 2025 host on a motion by Vice President Gardner with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
8. **Approval of NACO Resolution 24-04, Thanking Carson City for Hosting the 2024 NACO Annual Conference.** Vinson remarked on the success of the Centennial event and thanked Carson City's Manager, Nancy Paulson and their staff for the assistance provided. He then read the Resolution into the record, and it was approved on a motion by President Elect Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Andriola.
9. **Approval of NACO's April, May, June, July, August, and September 2024 Financial Statements.** This item was combined with item 10, only one action was taken.
10. **Approval of NACO's April, May, June, July, August, September, and October 2024 Investment Reports.** Vinson first discussed the financial statements noting that the Association remains in a strong financial position with overall expenses lower than projected and interest income exceeding projections. He then informed the Board that the investments continue to adhere to the approved policy and noted that he would address any questions. Fiscal Officer Kalt informed the Board that he considered the investment returns to be remarkable due to the prudent fiscal management of Vinson and the Board, reiterating that the returns over the last two years were impressive. The financial statements and investment reports were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by Past President Higbee.
11. **Presentation Regarding 340B Program and Benefits to Nevada's Counties, Nancy Bowen, CEO and Steven Messinger, Policy Director, Nevada Primary Care Association.** President Giomi informed the Board that the Association advocates on behalf of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that provide care to the under and uninsured population. He discussed the sliding scale that fees are charged based on Medicaid enrollment or complete lack of coverage and informed the Board that 50% of the Association's Board of Directors is made up of patients served by the accredited centers, also noting that all the centers are non-profit. Ms. Bowen and Mr. Messinger then gave the Board an overview of the organizational structure of the Association and the FQHCs throughout Nevada. They discussed the importance of the 340B program which requires pharmaceutical companies to provide discounted drugs to the FQHCs. The Board was informed that the providers are required to participate in Medicaid/Medicare and that the pharmaceutical companies are actively trying to reduce the number of contract pharmacies, who have agreements with FQHCs, that patients can access under the program due to a lack of federal protection. The Board was informed that a BDR from the Interim Committee on Commerce and Labor

would be introduced in the upcoming Legislative Session under the NRS that governs unfair trade practices to codify protections for the program in Nevada law. Mr. Messinger and Ms. Bowen discussed the fact that the pharmaceutical companies are aware that the States are taking up the issue due to the lack of federal protection and are expected to fight the proposed legislation. Past President Higbee inquired how much money is allocated from the federal government to the industry for research and development of drugs. The presenters did not have that information on hand but noted the impact of the 340B program in Nevada. The 340B program provides approximately \$27 million in services each year. It was also noted that the pharmaceutical companies have already negotiated the highest prices they can with insurance companies to cover insured patients, so the attack on the 340B program is an attempt to maximize their profits through another avenue. Sharing an example of the impact of the reduction in the program in Elko, President Giomi noted that a pharmacy in West Wendover is already not filling certain diabetes medications under the program and high numbers of underinsured patients are experiencing hardships with affording necessary medications due to high out of pocket maximums, deductibles, and copays. President Giomi also informed the Board that the FQHC that he works for is exploring the need for a courier service in some of the area's they serve but noted that the idea is extremely cost prohibitive for non-profit healthcare providers. President Elect Andreozzi noted that the issue is compounded by lack of primary care providers in the rural communities and that while the maintenance of the 340B program won't close the gap it would stop it from widening. Vice President Gardner also noted the travel issues that the elimination of contract pharmacies would cause in the rural and suburban communities. Commissioner Andriola inquired about challenges in other states not being successful and Mr. Messinger noted that they utilized a model based on a Louisiana law that was successful and has similar structure to Nevada. President Giomi reminded the Board that none of the pharmaceutical companies are in Nevada and that all the revenue they generate is held outside the State and often outside the Country. President Elect Andreozzi concluded the item by requesting the Association provide a letter to the counties outlining the issue and requesting support at the Legislature.

12. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Health and Human Services Manager Position for NACO, Formerly NACO Public Health Coordinator.** Vinson reminded the Board that they had previously approved the acceptance of a grant from the State to fund the Public Health Coordinator position, informing them that the grant funding would run out in 2025. He also reminded the Board of previous discussions surrounding making the position sustainable and expanding the role to advocacy efforts that are currently excluded due to the grant funding. Vinson discussed the primary interface with the Legislature being health and human services related and the benefit that expanded advocacy would have for all 17 counties. He informed the Board that the job description was developed with the assistance of POOL/PACT and would answer a need for support within the counties and further NACO's mission. President Giomi noted that it was important for the Board to separate the position from the current Public Health Coordinator, while noting that she had brought tremendous benefit to NACO and the counties. Vice President Gardner inquired about including a Nevada residency requirement within the job description, and Vinson clarified that the position is within the direction of the Executive Director and that would be addressed. Past President Higbee noted that without the Public Health Coordinator Lincoln County would not have been able to complete their Public Health Assessment and President Elect Andreozzi noted that public health funding is not where it should be and more advocacy on behalf of counties is important, especially for those that don't have robust or staff that can be fully dedicated Human Services. The job description for the position of Health and Human Services Manager at NACO was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Andriola with second by Vice President Gardner.

- 13. Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of the NACO Annual Budget for 2025.** Vinson reminded the Board that the Association works under a calendar year, and this was the first presentation of the budget to the Board, noting that approval would be on the December agenda. He discussed minor changes to the dues calculations to be the most fair and forward thinking for the fiscal health of the Association and noted that the public lands assessment had been moved to the base dues for ease of processing. Vinson discussed the additional assessment to fund the now approved Health and Human Services Manager position, noting that a new assessment had not been made in ten years and all increases are directly tied to services provided. Vinson informed the Board that the basis for the new assessment is based on a percentage of the county match refunds that NACO secured in 2019 with the repurposing of a portion of the Indigent Accident Fund. He also informed the Board that the assessment would be phased in over two years, with the 2025 fund deficit being covered by existing salary savings and interest income. Vinson concluded his remarks on the proposed dues by noting that they remain equitable and balanced and will remain mostly stable for all 17 counties. President Giomi encouraged Board members with questions to reach out to Vinson directly prior to the December meeting. Vinson then directed the Boards attention to the year over year comparison developed by Fiscal Officer Kalt at their request during discussion the previous year. He also noted the Budget Description document included in the agenda packet and that investments in personnel continue to be made, also informing the Board that he had communicated with most of county fiscal departments. Commissioner Andriola thanked Vinson for the work done on the description document and the item was closed with Vinson's encouragement to reach out to him with questions.
- 14. Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator.** Amy began her update by thanking the Board for the approval of the Health and Human Services Manager position job description. She then informed them that the Foundational Public Health Services Assessment (FPHS) is complete and directed their attention to the copies provided, noting that a link to the final report was included in the agenda packet for those attending remotely and that it is also available on the NACO website. Amy then gave a high-level overview of the results. She reminded the Board that the baseline data was assessed on 13 different foundational services and was completed in accordance with the national model. She also encouraged the Board to use the Assessment as a tool for advocacy across multiple disciplines surrounding public health services, as well as to benefit current and future partnerships and to maximize existing services. Amy also informed the Board that while the Assessment did not include Clark and Washoe counties, their respective health districts have assessment and planning processes that inform strategic development of public health services in those areas, and she coordinates with those teams. She then discussed the use of the report during discussions on upcoming legislation and informed the Board that a dashboard is under development that will be available on the NACO website. She also informed the Board that Nevada recorded a podcast outlining a modified approach to the FPHS assessment process. Nevada's approach differs from the national model in that NACO actively engaged local government and community leadership outside of health departments/districts in the assessment process. President Giomi concluded the item by remarking on the FPHS being one example of the importance of the position and noted that the report will have benefits beyond the counties need for the information.
- 15. Update on Audit Findings from the NACO 2023 Annual Audit Report.** Vinson reminded the Board of the update provided in September and informed them that he plans to have a draft of the final outstanding item, which are updated accounting policies and procedures for the Board to review in January.

16. **Initial Discussion and Possible Approval of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) By-Laws, including updates from the NACO By-Laws Subcommittee.** Jennifer thanked the members of the Subcommittee for their participation and work on the update. She drew the Board's attention to the draft included in the agenda packet, noting that all the items discussed during the September meeting were incorporated. She informed the Board that per the currently approved By-Laws the draft must be transmitted to the county directors 30 days prior to action and therefore action would be taken in January. No action was taken on the item.
17. **Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**
  - a. **Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Vinson informed the Board that Past President Higbee had filled in for the Chair Tipton who was unable to attend the meeting. He informed the Board that the Subcommittee had discussed the release of plans regarding the Greater Sage Grouse and that those plans are currently within the protest period. The Subcommittee also discussed the Utility Grade Solar PEIS and informed the Board that the meeting held with members of the Governor's staff had been effective, noting that many of the concerns addressed were included in the Governor's response with individual counties noted. Other items discussed by the Subcommittee were an upcoming meeting of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Board; and concerning water and conservation rules that are expected to be included in the BLM Statewide RMP.
18. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Past President Higbee discussed an amendment that will give counties the ability to purchase RP&P for housing and informed them that more information would be presented in December. He also informed the Board that the Senate had introduced their version of the Farm Bill and encouraged the Board to watch for inclusion regarding the Utility Grade Solar plans. Vinson informed the Board that he had attended the WIR meeting in Washington in October and that it was a good and productive meeting. Members of the Board also gave updates on activities within their counties.
19. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31a.m.