

AAHSAC Meeting Minutes: Oct. 9, 2025

MINUTES PREPARED BY: OAAH

LOCATION: Orville Freeman Office Building B108/Hybrid

Attendance

Abdou Manjang, AAHSAC

Aisha Ellis, OAAH-MDH

Andrea Lawson, AAHSAC

Carolyn Livingston, AAHSAC

Charles Dixon, AAHSAC

Chris Smith, AAHSAC

Cindy Devonish, AAHSAC

Dr. Brooke Cunningham, EO-MDH

Elder Rosemary Nevills, Paths to Black Health grantee

Endurance Ehimen-Eiche, OAAH-MDH

Jordan Burt-McGregor, OAAH-MDH

Nila Gouldin, OAAH-MDH

Pastor Jessica Jackson, Paths to Black Health grantee

Patrick Ingram, AAHSAC

Pleasant Radford Jr., AAHSAC

Raeisha Williams, Paths to Black Health grantee

Decisions made

- Decision: Previous meeting minutes approved
- Decision: Council agreed to review and provide feedback on the draft OAAH Outreach and Engagement Plan once distributed
- Council acknowledged need for charter review in Q1 2026

Action items

Share draft Outreach and Engagement Plan for OAAH

- Assigned: OAAH director
- Due: Quarter 1, 2026

Finalize AAHSAC Stakeholder/Partner Mapping Project Plan

- Assigned: Community Outreach and Engagement Committee
- December 2025

Finalize AAHSAC Recommendation & Engagement Procedure document

- Assigned: Health and Wellness Committee
- Due: December 2025

Finalize AAHSAC Policy Review and Action Procedure document

- Assigned: Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee

Research options for hosting digital health resource content on AAHSAC and OAAH websites

- Assigned: OAAH Council liaison
- Due: December 2025

Coordinate logistics for focus groups to engage communities

- Assigned: OAAH Council liaison
- Due: December 2025

Appointment application window open: Apply by Oct. 31

- Assigned: AAHSAC Members
- Due: Application window closes at 3 p.m. Oct. 31, 2025

Agenda

Call to order

- Presenter: Pleasant R.

Approval of previous minutes

- Presenter: AAHSAC members

Opening

- Presenter: OAAH Council liaison

Introductions

- Presenter: all

OAAH update

- Presenter: OAAH director

Introduction of Minnesota Commissioner of Health

- Presenter: OAAH director

Commissioner's remarks

- Presenter: Commissioner Cunningham

Discussion

- Presenter: AAHSAC co-chairs, OAAH director, MDH Commissioner, OAAH liaison, AAHSAC subcommittees

Break

Paths to Black Health Grantee Spotlight and updates

- Presenter: Raeisha Williams, Elder Rosemary Nevills
- Presenter: Pastor Jessica Jackson

Committee updates on current priorities

- Presenter: AAHSAC subcommittees

Committee Engagement Hour

- Presenter: AAHSAC Subcommittees

Adjourn

- Presenter: OAAH liaison

Next meeting

Date: Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Location: Hybrid

Agenda items: submit proposed agenda items to oaah.mdh@state.mn.us

Meeting notes

The meeting opened with introductions and approval of previous minutes before Director Aisha Ellis presented updates on the Office of African American Health's (OAAH) Outreach and Engagement Plan, emphasizing equity-centered, community-driven strategies to strengthen trust, partnerships, and culturally grounded data practices.

Council members held a robust discussion on sustainability, outreach roles, and alignment with statutory authority, expressing the need for clear processes, defined roles and responsibilities, and collaboration between OAAH, grantees, and the council. Commissioner Brooke Cunningham reaffirmed MDH's commitment to health equity, highlighting the importance of visibility, documenting outcomes, and advocacy.

Guns Down Love Up provided a presentation on youth-led violence prevention efforts, and Morning Glory Montessori presented on their early childhood education model. The council concluded by reaffirming its commitment to accountability, community impact, and continued partnership with MDH to advance health equity for African Americans in Minnesota.

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