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JENNIFER "JEN" FRIEND

EST. 1989

**DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
500 E. THIRD STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89713-0001**

BOARD FOR THE EDUCATION AND COUNSELING OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

POST DATE: **DECEMBER 2025**

The Board for the Education and Counseling of Displaced Homemakers will conduct a quarterly meeting on **Monday, March 3rd, 2025**, commencing at **3:00 PM**

TELECONFERENCE via ZOOM for those who can't attend in person.

<https://nvdestr-org.zoom.us/j/83780753408?pwd=gWJ5OHbBK1FbgSE6Grue106G5X8ibd.1>

Meeting ID: 837 8075 3408

Passcode: 431227

This agenda has been properly posted on the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) website at https://detr.nv.gov/Page/Displaced_Homemakers_Program and the Nevada Public Notice website at <https://notice.nv.gov> in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.

The Board may take items out of order; combine two or more items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or, delay discussion on any item. The Board will take public comment at the beginning and end of this meeting. The Board may limit public comment to five minutes. Written submissions will be considered. While there will be no restriction on comments based on viewpoint, repetitive comments will be limited. Programs that will be participating will be Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), HELP of Southern Nevada, and Community Chest.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order ----- Chair Hudson called meeting to order.
2. First Public Comment ----- Chair
There are no public comments.
3. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum of Board Members ----- Chair
Nicole Hudson, Louise Helton, Wendy Raynor, and Jen Friend are all present. Mary Hausch is not present. Ms. Adrian confirmed the quorum. Mary Hausch joined the meeting later.
4. Confirmation of Posting -----Lucas Watson
confirmed the meeting minutes have been posted. The meeting minutes were posted in February 2025
5. Review Written Comments ----- Paulina Adrian
There were no written comments.
6. Adoption of Agenda ----- Chair
The agenda was adopted as-is.
7. Approval of December 2nd, 2025, Meeting Minutes -----Chair Hudson
A motion to adopt the agenda as posted by Ms. Friend and Ms. Raynor seconded motion.
Motion approved
8. Review Written Comments-----For Discussion Only
9. Displaced Homemaker Celebration Discussion -----
The Displaced Homemaker Celebration is a topic for possible action on the agenda. Mr. Watson said we are moving on from 35 to 40, and we were going to try to move forward from there. Chair Hudson said she was looking back through previous minutes to see if we decided differently but she thinks that is what we discussed. Chair Hudson also had a conversation with folks from TMCC where they are working on some video opportunities or some student story opportunities and she said or suggested to keep collecting stories and let us know what they are collecting. We don't want to not do anything with it, we will, but there's nothing formal that we decided to do for the DH celebration. This is for discussion only and Chair Hudson asked if Ms. Sullivan or Mr. Orcutt wants to talk a little bit about what they're doing for the good of the group and encourages everyone else to do the same. Mr. Orcutt said since we have some students that have been successful DH participants that are going on and having good outcomes it's the best opportunity to get their experience and how DH has helped them and kind of how

we use that now in a promotional context or in the future and always reaching out to past students and checking back in to see their success and maybe celebrating that at some point in the future. Mr. Orcutt wanted to make sure that they were getting the opportunity when they had it with those students, they've had some really successful participants and if celebrating our individuals is the goal, that's something everybody at all the centers can help with. Chair Hudson asked how successes are celebrated at HELP and Ms. Sewell said they have always captured their success stories on a monthly basis and last fall we started turning in stories to the Board, so she likes the proposal of a grander celebration for our client's success. The issue is they gain success and then leave us and that's great but we have to do a better job at stretching out our success and making sure that we can document at a longevity maybe longer than 60 or 90 days or 6 months, but probably a year in we're going to have to start tracking and documenting those in order to have, I think, a bigger success story at this level. Even doing something on film would be great, that would be ideal of course, which takes some crafty IT work and just roll with it because we're going to have to have a celebration soon. Chair Hudson asked Mr. Watson if our CIO has returned, and Mr. Watson said he doesn't think she is back yet, but he will check. Chair Hudson asked what we can do to collect in terms of phone interviews if you will or say a few words and maybe that's our opportunity to kind of collect the stories along the way in addition to the writing and video, but we can't do editing, so that would be the ask. If we collect videos and print, what can they do to assemble in the meantime because we're collecting it anyway and maybe they can edit it. In the face-to-face meeting in Vegas there were some great stories and so how can we do something a little bit more with it and have a similar format so that would be the ask, what can we give them, how can we submit it, and they can do the magic to pull it together over the next few years it seems like. We're not going to wait a few years, but you know, that will give us an arsenal of some things to collect. Maybe that's it, you know we are talking about a big celebration, but it's leading up to the celebration and what we can do in the meantime so thanks TMCC and Ms. Sewell for capturing the stories. Ms. Helton said these stories are so wonderful to capture and anything as we're saving them up, there's no harm in using them along the way because they are inspiring to people in the program. Chair Hudson asked if that made sense to Mr. Watson to ask the CIO when they come back and he said 100%, we can find out what they need from us and what they can put together and stuff so we will just keep getting as much information as we can from the programs and get it going for sure. Chair Hudson said it is probably as simple as the format, forms, and the questions to ask etc., so we have some consistency for messaging. Chair Hudson said no action is needed since we aren't moving forward to anything this legislative session.

10. Displaced Homemaker Grantee Reports-----

- a. Truckee Meadows Community College-----Sidney Sullivan
Ms. Sullivan said she is going to turn most of this over to Mr. Orcutt but she wanted to bring up one really interesting thing that we've noticed, and especially with HELP of Southern Nevada, since it's right in your backyard there, the career services in the education space is really heading toward career design kind of thing and UNLV has a design center and our staff

is currently working on an internal book club that really takes design theory and looks at how people pick their careers. Most of us fall into our careers without a lot more thought than well I knew somebody who really loved their job in this and since, hey, I'm already here, I might as well try it. So really kind of taking more of a design theory and prototyping and really kind of exploring these things is one exciting thing that she wanted to mention. Ms. Sullivan has been talking to Chair Hudson via email about this and she is doing some investigating on it at some other conferences and Chair Hudson has gotten her in contact with a colleague, Cass, who will help look into this and we talk about helping people get out of poverty and move their lives forward. We just hope that they're moving forward in a way that is not only self-sufficient, but makes them happy, so that's one of the kind of cool and exciting things that's going on right now here at TMCC. Mr. Orcutt says during the 2nd quarter fiscal year 2025 the Displaced Homemakers program at TMCC experienced notable growth and progress. We grew the program by 3 participants, bringing our active total to 12. Among these participants, 8 are currently enrolled in educational programs at TMCC with the other 4 working closely to secure full-time employment. For those seeing employment, we are emphasizing prior work experience and addressing foundational challenges along the way. One of the most significant milestones this quarter, and I do want to touch on life design because this individual named Heather Morton visualized where she wanted her life to be, and it is slowly one piece at a time just materializing. Heather completed her associates of Applied Science degree in welding with a very impressive GPA. She has since transitioned; she is now our part-time instructor at TMCC instructing high school kids in welding and continuing her Bachelor of Applied Science in career and technical education and leadership. Across all 12 participants, we secured a total of \$36,980 in Federal grants for this school year, in addition to \$14,295 in scholarships for the school year for these students. These funds have been instrumental in addressing financial barriers and ensuring our participants receive the comprehensive support they need to succeed. Engaging with outside agencies and scholarship programs continues to be our cornerstone of our efforts to provide wraparound services that support the whole individual. Mr. Orcutt sent out a newsletter today to students-where there's 3 scholarships with only a couple of weeks left. He reminds them over and over to try and get their students to access these. Among our DH participants, they've been so successful. The whole idea of grabbing the best success stories comes from other DH participants that he has seen and just gone, can I tell other people your experience?, can you tell other people how this has worked for you?, and so I just recorded 20 minutes of me and a student talking about her experience and so yeah, somebody is going to have to edit it. As always, we are committed to empowering our participants to achieve self-sufficiency and personal growth. The strides made this quarter are a testament to the dedication of our team and the resilience of those we serve. Chair Hudson wanted to, for the good of the group, talk about the design thing that was mentioned. Her team here in career services again or peers at her professional job with our folks at TMCC, and this is a Stanford developed model that's called "Designing Your Life" as you mentioned the book club, but ideally, school is just 1 piece of your life, it's more than that and you know this working with the participants, and so we are trying in Vegas a peer mentor model with our disconnected youth who are not students but community members through our school of public health partnership that are not connected, 16-24 year olds who may be in rehab programs, not working, or not in school and

the concept of it is a peer mentor model so folks just a couple years ahead of them just highlighting really this model and this way of thinking. And again, education is important, that's one piece of it but what do you want your life to look like? So again, we are piloting that, we currently offer it to our students, and they are in a different phase but there is an opportunity for DH to be able to also utilize these services, but she doesn't know how we would pay for it. We need to find some additional funding sources because it's good content and it's changing lives for sure. Chair Hudson thanked Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Orcutt and just wanted to give the folks a better context, and what that means, and how we are piloting it here locally. There's a lot of interest in this work, it's a movement and again, how do we design our life and not just let things happen to us. It doesn't matter what stage you're at in life; it's just being intentional. Chair Hudson also shared that her son who is graduating college and is a football senior, had him meet with one of their design counselors here to help him with that what's next because it's one thing hearing it from a parent and he doesn't listen to her, but hearing it from someone else helped him decide that grad school was the place to go and there's still some eligibility to play, and to walk through those steps.

b. HELP of Southern Nevada-----Denise Gee
Ms. Sewell said Ms. Gee won't be attending these meetings any longer, so her name is removed from the agenda moving forward. HELP is in the process of updating our agency's strategic goals with executive leadership heavily involved in the process and some things will come out of this that we are developing that will obviously help our DH clients, so more to come on that. One fun fact, and we always try to highlight what we do as an agency, but this came through in an email this morning that I thought was pretty insightful and impactful, almost overwhelming-is that last night we housed 781 heads in our beds and 258 of those clients were minors under the age of 18. That is huge. When I think of how HELP globally is making an impact, I always want to remind myself that part of what we do in employment and workforce development services is helping those clients get to their successful ending. We are part of that, and I hope it's something that we take across the way because we never really often appreciate what we do in playing an important part in how people become housed and maintain their housing. Ms. Oropeza said she is excited to give a quick update on the DH program for the program year 2024 to 2025, which is from July first until now. We have enrolled 189 participants and out of those, we have helped 130 to find employment. This means these people are back on their feet, they feel confident again, and they can now put food on their table, and it is very significant. When they come to us, they usually come distressed because they cannot keep their jobs or meet their needs or their family's needs or whatever they need so once they find employment, they get what they need, and they leave because now they're self-sufficient so that's what we did. We also got 10 participants into the training program. This is to help enhance their skills in their career. Ms. Oropeza also wanted to mention that the youth that are coming under our wing. She said we touch some of those lives when they attend our job readiness workshops, so we get to see them and work with them face to face and see all of the challenges, and the way they come and we can assist them and give them skills again to you know, find a better life than what they're going through when they first come to our agency, so that is very significant to us how we are touching those lives and if we touch those lives when

their young they can become better adults. We're happy that we continue helping the people that are so important in our lives and the way we make a difference in the community.

c. Community Chest-----Shaunte Ibarra
Ms. Ibarra-Beltrami said there have been 3 enrollments which we know doesn't sound like a huge number, but since we lost our employment funding, DH has been hard for us and it's been difficult to kind of reimagine what it's going to look like for us at Community Chest and what it looks like for our clients, so it has been a challenge and we are taking a step in the right direction. We are focusing on the employment portion and not training because those that have expressed interest in training...it just hasn't gone very far in terms of training available in their area, which is always a difficult thing for us because we are so rural. We've really tied it in with our Domestic Violence program and our DV advocates are and screening every client that comes in for potential DH eligibility. We've had 3, and we've had 1 that we've successfully been able to gain employment and with that employment has been able to fully leave her abuser or perpetrator and is on her own for the first time in a very long time and finally starting to feel like she can breathe again so although we only have 3, that one is huge. We are on the right path in the right direction but it's kind of a slow-moving wheel, but we are working on it. We have a lot of new programmatic paperwork into place, and we've sent over our protocol, and everything being implemented into the program to Mr. Watson and we are headed in the right way. We will continue to explore training options and education opportunities at little to no cost to avoid someone leaving a situation and immediately going into debt. Transportation is and will continue to be something that is just a difficult situation for all of us because in the rural areas we don't have bus systems or any public transportation or anything like that, so that remains a difficult situation. So even with finding employment that is one of those really big barriers as well as housing. Every single one of us on here has faced those issues trying to find appropriate housing for our clients. We will keep battling and fighting that fight but in the interim we are trying to find our ways around it and our DV advocates are CHW's, you know, if we need to get people to appointments or whatever it might be, we try to help with transportation using staff vehicles that CCI's purchased and get people where they need to be and try to find the best opportunity possible to get people employment within their area of training. We are working on it, but we do have enrollments. Chair Hudson asked what programs she finds that are helping. Ms. Ibarra-Beltrami said that unfortunately, the stuff that is available online isn't producing the jobs that the individuals can find in their immediate areas, so it's kind of do we go to work right now or do I go to training, and I don't have work right now when I'm escaping this situation and need a job. When you have a single parent needing to work 40-50 hours a week and you're it, you know, training isn't going to be on the forefront and if the job isn't going to pay what they could make in the things that they can do, I had someone who did complete medical billing and coding but the starting salary is just not enough to survive so when she can go to the factories like Tesla and Panasonic, they start them out at \$23-24/hr, plus they can get transportation which is more bang for their buck right now, so that's difficult. For a long time, CDL was this huge thing but again, anything out here by us, it's that transportation factor. If we have somebody in the Silver Springs area to Carson, that's 40 miles one way to get them to work so if you don't have a car or a job to pay for the gas,

unfortunately, we don't have those supportive services anymore that we can provide because we aren't the one paying for them to go to school. It really has put that barrier really high within our agency and our specific situation because we can no longer pay for those things, and we need someone else to be able to pay for those things. Every agency does things differently and how they sort out the money so it's been difficult to find those ways and how we give people rides and those kinds of things when we could. Those aren't necessarily with different training providers or people that can offer the opportunity to have schooling. So you know, if they're going to an agency to provide schooling, that doesn't mean that they have some case manager or somebody who can provide that transportation that makes sense and is able to, so it's just adding to that barrier because we no longer have that funding stream. Chair Hudson said she will schedule personal time with Ms. Ibarra-Beltrami for a deep dive into that funding stream loss and what that could mean because she wants to better understand it.

11. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting -----Open Discussion

Chair Hudson asked if the programs from the last meeting have been utilized yet in any way or using their presentation content. Mr. Watson mentioned the online learning called Coursera and he is going to contact Matt at our local office to see if he can come to the next meeting and go over that with everyone because it might help with the rurals if they have internet access. Kara Abe said DETR has a contract with Coursera through LearnNV which is through our EmployNV hubs. Chair Hudson said she was corresponding with them this morning about some things, and it would be great to have them come to the meeting. Chair Hudson said she was inquiring for UNLV and student base; we have about a year left on that contract that's with the State and then the funding goes away. She said they as a university don't have the money to fund it and wants to get the word out but there's nothing worse than putting in time, effort, integration and money and then it's gone. So, for this group here, absolutely, and they are workforce aligned, and we can talk about that so thank you for mentioning that because she was emailing them this morning to confirm when that money and partnership was going to expire which will be in about a year. There are some workforce aligned programs, still some opportunities on the job front to make sure there are accessible jobs that are online per se for the rural community but let's hear from them and ask to share that additional research for course content to see where the jobs align in Nevada. Ms. Helton asked for the FM report on the next agenda, and it will be close to the time we are rounding out this year for the next funding cycle to see if they funds are coming or not to know where we are in relation to that to know if all the programs can keep moving forward.

12. Second Public Comment -----Chair Hudson

There were none at this time.

13. Adjournment

Chair Hudson asked to adjourn. Ms. Helton motioned to adjourn; Ms. Raynor seconded.