

AAHSAC Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2026

MINUTES PREPARED BY: OAAH

LOCATION: MDH FREEMAN OFFICE BUILDING

Attendance

- Aisha Ellis, MDH
- Dr. Brooke Cunningham, MDH
- Carol Houston, AAHSAC
- Chris Smith, AAHSAC
- Demitrea Kelley, AAHSAC
- Endurance Ehimen Eichie, MDH
- Florkime Paye, MDH
- Gage Urvina, AAHSAC
- Heather Rippel, MDH
- Dr. Inih Essien, AAHSAC
- Jamie Hackett, AAHSAC
- Lola Muhammad, AAHSAC
- Lucas Simmons, MDH
- Matthew Arries, AAHSAC
- Nila Gouldin, MDH
- Seena Hodges, MDH (Facilitator)
- Stephanie Trusten, MDH

Decisions made

- May meeting minutes approved.
- All PowerPoint decks for council meetings will include the working agreements slide and the council recap slide at the opening going forward.
- Council co-chairs will receive standard wording for approving meeting minutes in advance of each meeting going forward.

Action items

- Council members asked to review and submit questions in response to the Health Disparities Assessment Presentation in advance of the July Council meeting via email.

Agenda

- 1:00pm - Lunch
- 2:00pm - Opening and Approval of May Meeting Minutes
- 2:05 pm - OAAH Update: 2026 – 2027 Strategic Work Plan
- 2:35pm - Break
- 2:40 pm MN Story Collective Engagement

- 4:10 pm - Break
- 4:15pm - Presentation: Health Disparities Assessment
- 4:45pm - MDH Commissioner Remarks
- 4:55pm - Closing

Next meeting

Date: July 2026

Time: 2:00 – 4:00pm

Location: Virtual

Agenda items: To be announced

Meeting notes

The Council received an update on the Office of African American Health's (OAAH) 2026 - 2027 Strategic Work Plan, including areas of alignment between the Council's priorities and OAAH's strategic goals. Council members discussed their role in supporting outreach, community engagement, strategy and policy efforts that advance their work plan. The Council participated in a facilitated sense-making session led by the Minnesota Story Collective, which explored qualitative stories and experiences of African American Minnesotans to help inform the identification of health disparities and work plan implementation. The Council also received a presentation from OAAH Data and Evaluation Specialist on the quantitative data available related to health disparities and outcomes for African American communities in Minnesota. Commissioner Brooke Cunningham joined the meeting to introduce herself, share Minnesota Department of Health priorities, and discuss opportunities for ongoing engagement with the Council.

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of African American Health
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5000
oaah.dh@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

06/16/26

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5711.