

NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP



## New Mexico Health Equity Partnership – News

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### [PLACE MATTERS](#)



### [Health Impact Assessment](#)



### [Health Councils and Community](#)



*Local partners bring a health and equity lens to policies in a variety of domains ranging from natural resource extraction to criminal justice to housing at 2014 NMHEP gatherings.*

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP), managed by the [Santa Fe Community Foundation](#), is comprised of partners affiliated with non-profit organizations, foundations, [health councils](#), PLACE MATTERS teams, [Health Impact Assessment](#) (HIA) teams, community groups, statewide organizations and national partners. The purpose of the NMHEP is to strengthen the capacity of NM communities to advocate for systems and policy change that will improve the conditions where children, families, and communities are healthy. This includes, addressing structural and institutionalized inequities based on race, class, gender and geography. The NMHEP team and its national and state partners the National Collaborative for Health Equity, [Human Impact Partners](#), and [New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils](#) support local PLACE MATTERS teams, health impact assessment teams, health councils and community partners through coordination of regional and statewide gatherings, trainings, and technical assistance. Interested in attending a future gathering? Let us know.

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## New Mexico Health Equity Partnership News

### NMHEP Staff Announcements

NMHEP is pleased to announce that the current NMHEP team (María Gallegos, Yolanda Cruz, David Gaussoin and Jessi Jensen) will officially be taking on a larger role in working with Human Impact Partners to support the Health Impact Assessment teams and strengthen our collective HIA capacity. The NMHEP point person for each HIA team is as follows:

- [Health Impact Assessment: RED SHEILD PROJECT in Roswell, New Mexico](#) - [Jessi Jensen](#)
- [Cuba, Studying Trail Enhancement Plans- Health Impact Assessment \(STEP - HIA\)](#) - [Jessi Jensen](#)
- [Taos County, Taos Community Foundation HIA: Creating Policy to Inform Effective Investment in the Health of our Community](#) - [David Gaussoin](#) and [Jessi Jensen](#)
- [San Miguel County, NM HIA From Incarceration to Reintegration](#) - [Yolanda Cruz](#)
- [McKinley County, Looking Within: A Health Impact Assessment on Uranium Mining-](#) [Maria Gallegos](#)
- [LOBOS CO2 Pipeline HIA](#) - [Yolanda Cruz](#)
- [Sunport Boulevard Extension Project - Health Impact Assessment](#) - [María Gallegos](#)
- Future PLACE MATTERS Health Impact Assessments - [María Gallegos](#)

In order to enable the NMHEP team to play a larger role in supporting HIA teams and strengthening our collective HIA capacity, we will be hiring a full-time Events and Logistics Planning Associate to assist with logistics and event planning for the Statewide Health Councils and Community Gathering; Regional Health Councils and Community Gatherings, Statewide PLACE MATTERS Gatherings, and 2 Regional HIA trainings.

Lastly, we'd like to announce that [David Gaussoin](#)'s position has shifted from NMHEP Administrative Assistant to NMHEP Communications and Development Associate. In this position, David will provide the NMHEP support with communications, web site, and coordination of the sustainability plan. He has a background in applied fine arts and arts education. David holds a BBA in Business Marketing from the Anderson School of Business, at the University of New Mexico. David's previous experience includes teaching at the Institute of American Indian Arts and the Santa Fe Community College, as well as, producing and selling his own jewelry and fashion internationally. David is a Native of Santa Fe, as well as, a proud member of the Navajo Nation and Picuris Pueblo. David is a strong advocate for the arts. He has worked with the Pueblo Opera Program, Avant Guard, the New Mexico Museum Foundation, and the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts. He enjoys traveling, learning about

new cultures, and sharing with others his own cultural background.

We are honored to have David in this new position. Please join me in welcoming David into his role as NMHEP Communications and Development Associate. We hope you are as excited as we are about our new staff configuration. We believe it will enable us to further strengthen our capacity to support health equity efforts statewide. If you have any questions about the changes, please don't hesitate to contact [Jessica Jensen](#), NMHEP Manager.

### **Job Announcement – New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, Santa Fe Community Foundation: Logistics and Event Planning Associate**

The NMHEP Logistics and Event Planning Associate, a full-time position based at the Santa Fe Community Foundation, provides logistics and event planning support for the NMHEP's gatherings and trainings. This position requires an ability to work in coordination with a small team while maintaining professionalism and a sense of humor; excellent critical thinking skills; experience with event planning and onsite logistics; experience working with New Mexico's diverse communities; knowledge and experience with healthy equity efforts; superb communication skills; and a willingness to follow through on requests and meet deadlines. For full description click [here](#).

Please send resume including three professional references and cover letter to: [jjensen@nmhealthequitypartnership.org](mailto:jjensen@nmhealthequitypartnership.org), position open until filled

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## **Peer to Peer Learning**

### ***Strengthening Partnerships to Advance Health Equity***

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) is honored to be working in partnership with the [Con Alma Health Foundation](#). Together, we are committed to improving the conditions where children, families and communities in NM have the opportunity to be healthy. On Friday, May 9, 2014, NMHEP staff and local PLACE MATTERS coordinators collaborated with the Con Alma Health Foundation and [Farm to Table](#) to facilitate round table group discussions for the [Healthy People / Healthy Places Gathering](#) at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Topics focused on health equity, policy, community engagement, and culturally relevant and geographically appropriate practices that honor community. Throughout the summer, NMHEP has continued to work with the Con Alma Health Foundation and Farm to Table through the Healthy People / Healthy Places initiative to identify, plan and leverage resources for additional peer to peer learning opportunities in the coming year. The NMHEP team believes that by aligning our efforts with foundations and non-profits with similar goals we will have a greater impact in ensuring equity in our food systems and land use policies, which will ultimately lead to better health outcomes for all New Mexicans.

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## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	POINT OF CONTACT
October 16 & 17, 2014	Northeast Health Council and Community Gathering - Santa Rosa	<a href="#">Yolanda Cruz</a>
Fall 2014	Southwest Health Impact Assessment Training	<a href="#">María Gallegos</a>
Fall 2014	Metro Health Impact Assessment Training	<a href="#">María Gallegos</a>
November 2014	Northwest Health Council and Community Gathering	<a href="#">Yolanda Cruz</a>
December 2014	Southeast Health Council and Community Gathering	<a href="#">Yolanda Cruz</a>
Winter 2015	Statewide PLACE MATTERS Gathering - Host: Doña Ana County PLACE MATTERS	<a href="#">María Gallegos</a>

January 2015 (tentative)	Metro Health Council and Community Gathering	<a href="#">Yolanda Cruz</a>
February 2015	Southwest Health Council and Community Gathering	<a href="#">Yolanda Cruz</a>
March 2015	Statewide Health Council and Community Gathering	<a href="#">Yolanda Cruz</a>
Spring 2015	Statewide PLACE MATTERS / Health Impact Assessment Gathering – Host: San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS	<a href="#">María Gallegos</a>

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## NMHEP Website

NMHEP recently launched our web site. Please visit it [here](#). Interested in sharing your community success story in our newsletter? Please submit it by October 15, 2014 to [Jessi Jensen](#).

[Like us on Facebook!!](#)

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## Sustainability Plan



The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) recently held a Sustainability Kick off meeting in July, at the [Albuquerque Community Foundation](#). The meeting produced many great ideas and suggestions surrounding the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership's model. The Sustainability Kick off meeting was moderated by the [TCC Group](#), whom is assisting with the development of the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership's sustainability plan. Since the meeting the TCC Group has been actively working with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership team to further define the partnership model and determine next steps. The next formal sustainability planning session for staff will take place in November 2014. We look forward to updating everyone on this exciting process!

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## PLACE MATTERS Highlights

NMHEP is committed to strengthening the PLACE MATTERS teams in [Bernalillo](#), [Doña Ana](#), [San Juan](#) and [McKinley](#) communities to advance health equity through policy change. PLACE MATTERS is a national initiative designed to build the capacity of local leaders and communities to identify and address social, economic and environmental conditions that shape health and life opportunities.

## Recent Gatherings



### **Sharing our Healing Process through Stories**

The [McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#) (MKCPM) team, a local partner of the [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#), was honored to host the New Mexico Statewide PLACE MATTERS gathering in June 2014. Jonathan Perry, from Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining, provided an overview of uranium mining in the area and his insight on working with the community. [Philmer Bluehouse](#) and [Randy Harris](#) also shared their knowledge in relation to moving our work forward in New Mexico. We ended the day by visiting the historical uranium tailing spill and [Red Water Pond Community](#) which is surrounded by abandoned mining sites and contaminated land. We heard their stories and Tony Hood shared the significance and power of the Hogan, which the MKCPM team is working with them to build. We closed the evening with them by walking in, standing around the layout of the future Hogan, and listening to a song sung by community members. Our stories are powerful tools. Submitted by Jordon Johnson, McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

To learn more about the recent Statewide PLACE MATTERS Gathering, please check out the blog post written by our national partner, Human Impact Partners technical assistance provider Holly Avey. [The Three Mile Island You've Never Heard Of.](#)

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## PLACE MATTERS Staff

Interested in learning more about the local PLACE MATTERS work? Please contact our local PLACE MATTERS coordinators.

### [Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS](#), New Mexico Voices for Children

Coordinator: [Jacque Garcia](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: [Monica Trujillo](#)

### [Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS](#), Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Coordinator: [Kristina St. Cyr](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: [Johana Bencomo](#)

### [McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#),

Coordinator: [Jordan Johnson](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: [Philmer Bluehouse](#)

### [San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS](#), San Juan County Partnership

Coordinator: [Pam Valencia](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: [Amanda Evans](#)

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## Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Highlights

NMHEP is committed to training county/tribal health councils, PLACE MATTERS teams and community groups in HIA. Local HIA teams work with community members to make a judgment about how a proposed plan or policy will affect health. HIA takes into consideration the current health status of a community, predicts how this will change if a proposed plan or policy is implemented and provides recommendations based on community knowledge, stories and quantitative data to inform and improve decision making processes. The NMHEP currently supports 5 HIA teams throughout the state and our national partner, Human Impact Partners is supporting two HIAs. In this newsletter we feature two local HIA teams – San Miguel County, NM HIA from Incarceration to Reintegration and Lobos C02 Pipeline.



## San Miguel County, NM HIA From Incarceration to Reintegration

The New Mexico Highlands University School of Social Work and the NMHU Foundation, Inc. is partnering with the San Miguel County Detention Center and its Citizen Advisory Committee, the Las Vegas Peace & Justice Center, the San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council, and numerous other community partners to conduct a Health Impact Assessment in the northeastern part of New Mexico. Communities here, which include San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe Counties, struggle with higher than average rates of unemployment, substance abuse, DWIs, poverty, lack of access to health care and other basic services.

These conditions lead to higher incarceration and recidivism rates. The health inequities among those who end up incarcerated are especially apparent. An Adult Reintegration Center has been proposed as a way to help address some of these health disparities. General goals of the Center would include: Reduce recidivism rates (currently at approximately 80%); improve overall health and safety of the community; promote mutual understanding and respect within the community; and enhance community-based partnerships. The HIA is currently underway to address the feasibility of a Reintegration Center for this region. The HIA Team is partnered with NMHU students who are conducting research to document the potential impacts a Reintegration Center would have on the communities in NE NM. [\(link to photos\)](#) submitted by San Miguel County Detention Center Citizen Advisory Committee

## Lobos CO2 Pipeline

In October 2013, the energy corporation Kinder-Morgan proposed to build a 214-mile pipeline to bring carbon dioxide (CO2) mined in Arizona through New Mexico for use in enhanced oil recovery operations (commonly known as fracking) in Texas. Many residents of Torrance County, New Mexico have expressed concern about the potential effects of this project, known as the Lobos CO2 Pipeline. Concerns include the conversion of farming, ranching or residential land for industrial use; long- and short-term economic impacts to individuals and the county; impacts to local history and culture; effects to water quality and quantity; and other health and safety concerns. The central goal of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) being conducted is to provide information about the potential effects of the proposed pipeline on the health and equity of Torrance County residents.

It is intended to inform residents and decision makers, such as the Bureau of Land Management that is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the proposed pipeline. The HIA is expected to be complete in time to comment on the EIS report. Human Impact Partners is leading the HIA in collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community, a coalition of community members and the New Mexico Department of Health. *submitted by LOBOS CO2 HIA Steering Committee*

## Grant Announcement

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, managed by the Santa Fe Community Foundation, works to strengthen the capacity of NM communities to advocate for systems and policy change that will improve the conditions where children, families, and communities are healthy. This entails, addressing structural and institutionalized inequities based on race, class, gender and geography. One community organizing tool, which helps support our efforts, is the [health impact assessment](#). Health Impact Assessment (HIA) uses community participation, research and data to determine a proposed policy or proposed plans impact on the health of a population. HIAs also provide recommendations to address these impacts. You can read about our current HIAs [here](#). If you live in the Southwest or Southeast regions of the state and are interested in learning more about HIA or possibly completing a [grant application](#), please contact [Jessi Jensen](#), NMHEP Manager.

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## Health Councils and Community Highlights

NMHEP is committed to mobilizing communities and building effective coalitions to strengthen tribal and county health councils' and community partners' to continue and expand their health equity efforts. Health Councils work with communities to address important local health issues and play an important role in community assessment, planning and coordination.

## Recent Gatherings

### *Grounding our Work in Equity*

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership is honored to be working in partnership with the [NM Alliance of Health Councils](#) and the [NM Department of Health](#). Together, we are committed to strengthening the capacity of NM communities to advocate for systems and policy change that will improve the conditions where children, families, and communities are healthy. Over the past six months, we have convened five regional gatherings and one statewide gathering with county and tribal health councils and community partners



NMHEP, the [New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils](#), and the [New Mexico Department of Health](#) hosted a gathering in Farmington in May 2014. The theme was Grounding our Work in Equity. Health councils, PLACE MATTERS teams, and community partners from San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties engaged in peer-to-peer learning. The discussions focused on community engagement, equity and inclusion, and working with underserved populations.



This year's events concluded with the Metro Health Council and Community Gathering at [Hummingbird Music Camp](#) in Jemez Springs. Facilitator's Ryan Steinmetz with the [Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice](#), Shannon Fleg with the [Native Health Initiative](#), and Dick Kozoll with [Step into Cuba](#) engaged local health councils and community partners in activities focused on community engagement, community asset mapping and coordinating and advocacy in rural areas. To learn more about next year's health council and community gatherings, please contact [Yolanda Cruz](#).

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## Upcoming Gatherings

### **Health Councils and Community Gathering - NE Region**

~~~October 16 & 17, 2014~~~

Santa Rosa, New Mexico

This learning opportunity brought to you by:

[NM Health Equity Partnership](#) - [Santa Fe Community Foundation](#),

[NM Alliance of Health Councils](#)

& [NM Department of Health](#) – Health Promotion Program

contact: [Yolanda Cruz](#) - (505) 490-1201

Assistance for travel/lodging will be available for participants traveling over 30 miles.

[Please click here to register](#)

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## New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils Website

The New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils recently launched its new website. [Please visit it here.](#)

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