



New Mexico Health Equity Partnership – Spring 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 labor to criminal justice to housing at 2014 NMHEP gatherings.

Using a strength-based approach, [NMHEP](#) works with communities across the state to build their capacity to address the root causes of poor health and to create the conditions where all children, families and communities are healthy. Local community partners identify priority issues, mobilize community members and implement effective community strategies to ensure health and equity are considered in policy and planning decision making across sectors. NMHEP and its national and state partners, [The Joint Center – Health Policy Institute](#), [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 or building partnerships with NMHEP and our local teams? [Let us know](#). We look forward to mobilizing for health equity in New Mexico.

New Mexico Health Equity Partnership News

Peer to Peer Learning

Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference

NMHEP and PLACE MATTERS teams presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference on March 18, 2014. NMHEP provided an overview of our work. Following this, Mary Alice Scott and María Gallegos moderated a panel with PLACE MATTERS coordinators focused on policy, community engagement and partnership.

Chronic Disease Prevention Council Facilitation



NMHEP and local PLACE MATTERS staff facilitated health equity breakout sessions at the [New Mexico Chronic Disease Prevention Council](#) quarterly meeting.

Recent Events

Feeding Frenzy: The Food Industry, Marketing & the Creation of a Health Crisis

NMHEP, the [Santa Fe Community Foundation](#) and the Media Literacy Project held a screening of Feeding Frenzy: The Food Industry, Marketing & the Creation of a Health Crisis at the Santa Fe Community College. Following the film, Andrea Quijada, Executive Director of the [Media Literacy Project](#) moderated a panel discussion with: [Dr. Sut Jhally](#), Tomás Rivera, [Chainbreaker Collective](#) and Sam Baca, with the [Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute](#).

Prior to the screening, Yolanda Cruz, Health Council and Community Coordinators was interviewed for KSFR's Radio Café where she talked about NMHEP's work statewide with particular emphasis on access to healthy food. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Point of Contact
May 6, 2014	NW Health Councils and Community Gathering	Yolanda Cruz
May 14 & 15, 2014	Metro Health Councils and Community Gathering	Yolanda Cruz
June 4, 5, 6, 2014	Statewide PLACE MATTERS / HIA Gathering	María Gallegos
July or August 2014	SW Health Impact Assessment Training	Shash Yázhí
TBD	Metro Health Impact Assessment Training	Shash Yázhí

NMHEP Website

NMHEP will be launching our website and newsletter next month. Please visit it [here](#). Interested in sharing your community success story in our newsletter? Please submit it by the 15th of each month to [Jessi Jensen](#).

Sustainability Plan

The Santa Fe Community Foundation recently disseminated a request for proposals for the development of a Sustainability Plan for NMHEP. Applications were accepted beginning Monday, March 10, 2014 through Wednesday, April 2, 2014 @ 5:00 p.m. (MST). Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal.

New Mexico Community Data Collaborative

NMHEP is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the [New Mexico Community Data Collaborative](#) (NMCDC) to support PLACE MATTERS, health councils, and Health Impact Assessment teams to build greater capacity for turning data into information and information into action. NMCDC and its collaborators will serve as a resource to teams to assist in developing datasets and interactive tools for community health assessment, as well as conducting workshops and individual trainings on how to use the tools effectively. NMHEP in partnership with NMCDC will hold an informational call on April 10, 2014. The objective of this call will be for PLACE MATTERS staff, HIA coordinators and NMAHC staff to learn how NMCDC can help support their health equity efforts. For additional information, please contact [Jessi Jensen](#) or [Tom Scharmen](#).

NMHEP Advisory Council

NMHEP is honored that Esther Abeyta, Jimmy Masters, Gary Williams, Olivia Roanhorse, Dolores Roybal, Dawn Sanchez, Ramon Padilla and Lisa Cacari-Stone are part of our advisory council. The purpose of NMHEP's advisory council is to bring together diverse voices from throughout the state that will collectively serve as a resource/thought partner to our team and offer guidance regarding the strategic direction of the partnership. NMHEP held its first advisory council meeting on Friday, February 28, 2014.



Visioning

At our recent gatherings and trainings, NMHEP has been asking local partners...

If we work together to address the root causes of poor health and to create the conditions where children, families and communities are healthy, what would New Mexico be like in 25 years?

Please view community members' responses [here](#).

PLACE MATTERS News

Recent Gatherings

PLACE MATTERS “Peer to Peer Learning” at the Statewide Health Councils and Community Gathering

NMHEP works to strengthen PLACE MATTERS teams in Bernalillo, San Juan, McKinley and Doña Ana counties to address health disparities and promote health equity through community-based initiatives and policy change.



On March 31, 2014 at the Statewide Health Councils and Community gathering, [PLACE MATTERS](#) coordinators shared with health council members and community partners how bringing a health lens to education, land use, and environmental policies has shifted the conversation in their communities. Coordinators also served as table leads for small group discussions on the importance of considering health in a variety of policy domains. Interested in learning more about PLACE MATTERS? Let us know. Please contact [María Gallegos](#).

Upcoming Gatherings

Statewide PLACE MATTERS / Health Impact Assessment Gathering

Please **save the date** for the Statewide PLACE MATTERS / Health Impact Assessment gathering happening June 4-6, 2014 in Gallup. The gathering will be hosted by the McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS team. The theme of the Gathering is “Power of Our Stories”.

Local Team News

McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS

[McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#) has been building our momentum since July 2013. The team hosted the Northwest Regional Health Impact Assessment training in November 2013, which ignited our relationship with the White Shell Women in the Red Water Pond Community. McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS has been working closely with this community, who live at ground zero of the 1979 Church Rock Tailing Spill, on the health impact assessment and developing materials to be presented to the community, tribal leaders, organizations, decision makers, and other interested entities. In March 2014, the health impact assessment was presented before the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board. Upon approval of the application the team will be collecting stories from community members impacted by the uranium legacy. The team anticipates having a primary report of our Health Impact Assessment in the summer. McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS encourages you to stay informed of our efforts in healing and moving the community forward by following us at www.mckinleycommunityplacematters.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mckinleycommunityplacematters

Doña Ana County PLACE MATTERS News

The Doña Ana County PLACE MATTERS team has been working in collaboration with The Great Conversation and the Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice to hold Great Conversations around health in communities across the county. Through these conversations we have been able to collect valuable qualitative data from community members. Some of the themes generated across communities are: built environment and walkability, access to affordable healthcare, access to healthy and affordable food, youth activities, water quality, and public safety. The team will be using this data to help guide us in choosing a focus area and moving forward with our policy priorities.



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: To be determined

Doña Ana County PLACE MATTERS, Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Coordinator: [Kristina St. Cyr](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: To be determined

[McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#), Coalition for Healthy and Resilient Youth

Coordinator: [Jordon Johnson](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: [Philmer Bluehouse](#)

San Juan County PLACE MATTERS, San Juan County Partnership

Coordinator: [Pam Valencia](#)

Community Engagement Specialist: [Amanda Evans](#)

PLACE MATTERS Advisory Group

As per the grant submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 2012, the PLACE MATTERS Advisory Group consists of the Statewide PLACE MATTERS coordinator and the four local PLACE MATTERS coordinators. The three grant writers / institutional knowledge holders are also part of the PLACE MATTERS Advisory Group. The PLACE MATTERS advisory group convened its first quarterly meeting on February 28, 2014.



Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Highlights

Northeast Health Impact Assessment Training



Stakeholders from Taos, San Miguel, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties gathered to learn the steps and processes of Health Impact Assessment

NMHEP is committed to providing health impact assessment trainings to health councils, PLACE MATTERS teams and community partners committed to advancing health equity. NMHEP, in collaboration with [Human Impact Partners](#), hosted the Northeast Regional Health Impact Assessment training at the Santa Fe Community Foundation on March 3 & 4, 2014. [Health Impact Assessment](#) is a tool that helps predict the potential health impacts of a proposed policy or planning decision. The training served as a kickoff event for two projects that were recently funded in Taos county and San Miguel county by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. [Taos Community Foundation](#) and its community partners will perform a Health Impact Assessment demonstrating the health impacts of the optional 15 percent set-aside available from Community Development Block Grant funds. [The New Mexico Highlands University Foundation](#) and its community partners will conduct an HIA on the health impacts of community housing for formerly incarcerated individuals in San Miguel County. Interested in learning more about health impact assessment? Let us know. Please contact [Shash Yazhi](#).

Health Councils and Community

Recent Gatherings

Southwest Health Councils and Community Gathering – Grounding our Work in Equity



Health council members and community partners in southwestern New Mexico share strategies for ensuring equity and inclusion in their efforts to address the root causes of poor health.

NMHEP works to build the capacity of health councils to continue and strengthen their health equity work. At a gathering in Las Cruces on February 20 and 21, 2014 hosted by NMHEP, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils, and the [New Mexico Department of Health](#), health council members and community partners engaged in peer to peer learning about effective strategies for advancing health equity. The discussion focused on community engagement, coordinating in rural areas, and ensuring equity and inclusion.

Southeast Health Councils and Community Gathering – Grounding our Work in Equity



At a gathering in Clovis on March 20 and 21, 2014 hosted by NMHEP, the [New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils](#), and the [New Mexico Department of Health](#), health council members and community partners engaged in peer-to-peer learning. The discussions focused on strengthening partnerships, reaching out to underserved populations, and strength-based approaches to community engagement. Interested in learning more about [health councils](#) or attending a future health council and community gathering? Let us know by emailing [Yolanda Cruz](#).

Statewide Health Councils and Community Gathering – Health in All Policies



NMHEP, in partnership with the [New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils](#) and the [New Mexico Department of Health](#), hosted a Statewide Health Council and Community gathering with an emphasis on ensuring that health is carefully considered across policies, or “health in all policies.” The event served as a pre-conference event to the NM Public Health Association Annual Conference. Over 150 health council members, [PLACE MATTERS](#) members, [Health Impact Assessment](#) team members, and community partners convened in Albuquerque to discuss the importance of considering health and equity in a variety of policy domains ranging from housing to education to criminal justice. Participants engaged in peer-to-peer learning around working with local political structures, messaging, community planning, and empowering communities through equity and inclusion.

Upcoming Gatherings

Regional Health Councils and Community Gathering “Grounding our Work in Equity”, will provide an opportunity for participants to share with one another effective strategies, policies and practices designed to advance health equity in rural communities, low-income communities, and communities of color.

- May 6, 2014 – Northwest Region gathering will be held in Farmington, New Mexico.
- May 14 & 15, 2014 – Metro Region gathering will be held at the Hummingbird Music Camp in Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

NMHEP provides mileage reimbursement (carpooling is encouraged) and 1 night lodging for participants traveling further than 45 miles. To reserve a room, let us know about special dietary needs/preferences, other accommodations needed, or should you have questions, please contact [Yolanda Cruz](#).

New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils Website

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