

NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP



## New Mexico Health Equity Partnership – News

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### New Mexico Health Equity Partnership

#### Introducing the NMHEP Team

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP) has moved into a new phase of operations where it is committed to the following strategic goals:

- **Goal 1:** Solidify a statewide network of community organizations and members to organize around health equity, promote cross community learning, and foster community collaboration, leadership, advocacy, and mobilization.
- **Goal 2:** Raise awareness, gain and retain the support of bi-national, tribal, state, regional, municipal, and community leaders, decision makers and elected officials to ensure health and equity is considered in all decision making.
- **Goal 3:** Strengthen the capacity of community groups, organizations and members directly affected by health inequities to advocate for health equity and to address structural and institutionalized inequities based on race, class, gender and geography.
- **Goal 4:** Confirm NMHEP's organizational structure, leadership structure and financial model and to identify funding partners and sources beyond the 18-month transition period.

To most effectively support these strategic goals, the NMHEP team members have shifted roles and responsibilities. Please take a moment to read about the NMHEP team's new roles and learn "why we do what we do".

**Jessica Espinoza Jensen**  
New Mexico Health Equity Partnership Grants & Capacity Building Strategist  
[jjensen@nmhealthequitypartnership.org](mailto:jjensen@nmhealthequitypartnership.org)

Raised in New Mexico, Jessi has long been intrigued with how the world around her (economic system, school, work, media) shapes her experiences and wellbeing. At a young age, she questioned the negative dominant narratives sent through the media and education settings about communities of color as these messages were contrary to the strengths and assets she saw in her family and community. Inspired by her formal studies in sociology, her personal exploration of radical feminist works, and her experiences negotiating the boundaries of life and work as a woman of color in Prague, Idaho, California and New Mexico, she came to understand that through collective action she could contribute to a more balanced and healthier world.

Moving away, yet returning to New Mexico, has enhanced Jessi's appreciation for her home and relationships with her family, friends, peers and community. She believes New Mexico's community members hold the vision, knowledge, resiliency and solutions to complex challenges vital to transformative change.

In her role as the Grants & Capacity Building Strategist, Jessi is responsible for NMHEP's capacity building strategy, Health Impact Assessment and small group gathering coordination, grants management and evaluation, staff supervision, and co-development of the Partnership's future business plan. Jessi is committed to working with her teammates and community partners to deepen their relationships and strengthen intentional, creative, fun and safe spaces where they are not only working towards a more equitable world, but actively practicing it.

Jessi finds solace in the outdoors, art journaling, and reading. She enjoys trail running, skiing and hiking with her husband, Brian and their two singing beagles, Burčák Bilo and Bogus Basin.

**María Gallegos**  
**New Mexico Health Equity Partnership Engagement & Policy Strategist**  
[mgallegos@nmhealthequitypartnership.org](mailto:mgallegos@nmhealthequitypartnership.org)

María Gallegos is a Native Nuevo Mexicana born and raised in the beautiful Red Earth of the mountains of Northern New Mexico. Maria's strengths and expertise are in community, labor, political organizing and advocacy. Maria's role with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership is Engagement and Policy. She has also served the community as an environmental scientist in water quality. In her leisure time Maria writes poetry; enjoys reading Chicana/o and Working Class Women's Literature; farming; talking politics and teaching Ballet Folklorico.

*"I do the work I do because as a Native Nuevo Mexicana with ties to the land, water and curanderismo, I respect the ways of tradition and the understanding that we [community] need 100% of our complete/total energy to be in good physical, mental and spiritual health. We [community] must share our lived experiences, in our voices and languages. Part of my job as an artist and a healer is to uncover the lived experiences. Part of my job as an organizer is to move our lived experiences to action." -MG*

**David Gaussoin**  
**New Mexico Health Equity Partnership Communications & Development Associate**  
[dgaussoin@nmhealthequitypartnership.org](mailto:dgaussoin@nmhealthequitypartnership.org)

David Gaussoin provides communications, web site, newsletter, and social media support for the NM Health Equity Partnership. In addition, he serves as support for network engagement and external communications, as well as, one HIA.

David holds a BBA in Business Marketing from the Anderson School of Business, at the University of New Mexico. He has a back ground in applied fine arts and arts education. 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. 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.

David strongly believes in equity and advocacy for grass roots community action- *"I believe community members hold the knowledge and answers. Sometimes, they just need to be asked. I do this work because we all have a responsibility to honor our past, present, and future generations, because this is our home."*

**Jinelle** **Scully**  
**New Mexico Health Equity Partnership Operations Associate**  
[jscully@nmhealthequitypartnership.org](mailto:jscully@nmhealthequitypartnership.org)

Jinelle believes that health is all we have in life and does her best to make her own health her priority. Personally, she is drawn to grief and loss, recovery from addiction, and resilience and community. Jinelle was born and raised in Michigan in a small community greatly impacted by environmental injustice. After some young wanderlust in New Mexico and Oklahoma she spent a decade living, loving, learning and losing in Alaska. She returned to the everlasting sunshine of New Mexico in 2012 and is happy to call it home.

Jinelle brings strengths from all of these places and her reputation for taking large leaps of Faith to the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership where she is the Operations Associate. She provides general support and logistics for the Partnership. Jinelle also serves as the point person for the Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS Health Impact Assessment (HIA) team and provides support to the SW Food Policy Council HIA. Her work experience includes Early Childhood, Rural/Tribal Health, Social Service, and Adolescent Mental Health. Her newest adventure is pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming a Nurse.

In the office you may find Jinelle planning a gathering over the phone while the folks on the other end unexpectedly share their life stories with her. Away from the office, Jinelle is often found spending time outside taking photos with her junkyard dog, Frida. Jinelle believes that someday soon, she will be put out of a job when communities return to their health.



*The NMHEP Team (left to right) María Gallegos, Jessi Jensen, David Gaussoin & Jinelle Scully*

[www.nmhealthequitypartnership.org](http://www.nmhealthequitypartnership.org)

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