

NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP



## New Mexico Health Equity Partnership – News

Generously supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

### Capacity Building



### Community Engagement



### Policy / Advocacy



*Local partners bring a health and equity lens to policies in a variety of areas ranging from trails to a comprehensive plan to reintegration center.*

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 shift power relations through advocating for systems and policy change that will improve the conditions where children, families, and communities are healthy. This requires addressing structural and institutionalized inequities based on race, class, gender and geography. The focus of the work is with low-income communities and communities of color that face social, environmental and economic health inequities. The Partnership is structured around three organizing tools, strategies and approaches that are used to leverage communities' existing assets and build their capacity to advocate for health equity related changes: PLACE MATTERS (PM); Health Impact Assessments (HIA); and NM Tribal and Community Health Councils.

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' community engagement and policy/advocacy work 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 Announcements

#### Thank you Yolanda Cruz!

We are grateful to [Yolanda Cruz](#) for her commitment to advancing health equity in New Mexico as the NMHEP Health Council and Community Coordinator over the past 19 months. She has done an amazing job working with health councils and communities to mobilize around health equity. In partnership with community members, colleagues, the [NM Alliance of Health Councils](#) and the NM Department of Health - Health Promotion team Yolanda convened eight regional health council and community gatherings and one statewide health council and community gathering which facilitated peer to peer learning and provided opportunities for participants to gain a shared understanding of the collective wisdom, knowledge and skills we hold to advance health equity in our beautiful state.



We congratulate Yolanda and wish her the best as she begins her new position as the DWI Prevention Coordinator, in Las Vegas, NM. We look forward to continuing to work with Yolanda as she serves on the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health team in San Miguel County. The team will strive for public health improvement through a [Health in All Polices](#) approach implemented as the second phase of a [Health Impact Assessment](#) that is now being completed on an Adult Reintegration Center and will be actively engaged in the [Partnership](#) moving forward.

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## Capacity Building

### Recent Events

#### SW Health Impact Assessment Training



*Photos courtesy of Jinelle Scully*

On November 17 and 18, the [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) team in collaboration with [Human Impact Partners](#) and the [Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS](#) team held the SW Health Impact Assessment training (HIA) in Las Cruces. Thirty-six participants from seven counties participated in activities over two days to learn more about the HIA process and to engage in the HIA being conducted by the [Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS](#) team and their community partners. A JUST FOR FUN, WALK OR RUN was also enjoyed by training participants.

The [Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS](#) HIA is focusing on the Viva Doña Ana Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is currently being developed and will include goals, objectives and policies designed to improve the quality of life for residents of Doña Ana County. The overriding themes of Viva Doña Ana projects are targeted to address people, places and prosperity.

## **Peer to Peer Learning at the Santo Domingo Health Impact Assessment Training**

The University of Virginia School of Architecture's Center for Design and Health and the School of Medicine's MPH program was recently awarded a grant from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) and the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#), to conduct a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that will inform the Community Master Plan currently in development for the Santo Domingo Tribe in Sandoval County, New Mexico. To support this project, the Santo Domingo Tribal Housing Authority hosted a full day HIA training by the [Oregon Public Health Institute](#) on January 19, 2015.

During the morning session, [María Gallegos](#) (NMHEP team representative) and leaders from the [San Miguel HIA team](#) (Pat Leahan), [McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#) ([Jordan Johnson](#)) and the [Lobos C02 Pipeline HIA team](#) (Pat Lincoln) served on a panel and shared their narratives, experiences, and knowledge with [HIA](#) in their respective communities. Representatives from the SW Food Policy Council HIA, [Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS team](#), [San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS](#), [New Mexico Community Data Collaborative](#), and the [NM Alliance of Health Councils](#) also participated in the training.

## **Health Council and Community Gatherings**

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (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.



The [NMHEP team](#), the [New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils](#), the New Mexico Department of Health – Health Promotion team worked with local representatives to coordinate the two-day NW Health Council and Community gathering in Gallup. The gathering “Celebrating our Work” was hosted by the [McKinley Community Health Alliance](#) at Western New Mexico University on December 2 and 3, 2014. Thirty-nine (39) health council members, PLACE MATTERS staff, Health Impact Assessment representatives, and community partners working to advance health equity from ten counties danced, deepened relationships and shared knowledge and wisdom with each other in an effort to advance equity and ensure health is considered in decision making processes; both collectively and in their respective communities.

Participants, as part of a site visit focused on community engagement, visited the Red Water Pond Community which [McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#) is working closely with to build a Hogan. The Hogan will be used for community meetings, ceremonies, and other educational opportunities. The Hogan has been a long awaited request of community members in the process of restoring their land and overall health from the legacy of uranium contamination. If you would like to contribute to the development of this project, please Donate [Here!](#)

The energy to advance equity and to ensure health is considered in decision making processes continued at the Metro Health Council and Community Gathering which took place on January 16 and 17, 2015 at United Way in Albuquerque. Forty-six (46) health council members, PLACE MATTERS members, Health Impact Assessment representatives, and community partners attended the two-day gathering hosted by the [Bernalillo Community Health Council](#). Participants

engaged in dialogue around Health in All Policies, developing leadership, and effective partnerships within institutions, while participating in a variety of activities facilitated by peers.



Participants also enjoyed a site visit to meet with staff and community members affiliated with the [Rio Grande Community Development Corporation](#), [La Plazita Institute](#) and [First Choice Community Health Care](#). The purpose of the site visit was to raise awareness about important community based equity work happening in the South Valley and to build bridges between health councils and local community groups.

To learn more about upcoming health council and community gatherings, please contact [Jinelle Scully](#).

## **What's New in Community Health Assessment**

The [New Mexico Community Data Collaborative](#) is a warehouse of data for conducting assessments of all types, and for exploring your community information with interactive maps.

Find maps of health outcomes, resources and social determinant factors covering such diverse topics as [food, obesity & hunger](#); [early childhood](#); [chronic diseases](#); [health insurance](#); [educational achievement](#) and [more](#).

Among the new projects reflected in the work on the NMCDC web site you will find a map of [hospitals and clinics](#), [disability](#), and [life expectancy](#).

[New Mexico Healthy Equity Partnership](#) are developing their own maps and applications to promote community engagement in proposed policies, plans and decision making. The [NM Alliance of Health Councils](#) now has an interactive map that allow you to find the Health Profile for every county: [New Mexico Health Councils and Profiles](#). The [McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS's](#) compilation of the health impacts of uranium mining on the Navajo Nation can be explored in an interactive [story map](#). See also the story of the [Cuba health impact assessment](#), [Studying Trail Enhancement Plans](#). And the [Chronic Disease Prevention Council](#) is working on its own [gallery of maps](#) which will be embedded in their web site.

If your Health Council, Place Matters Team or Health Impact Assessment team needs assistance with accessing the tools and data at NMCDC, call or write one of the collaborators listed at the bottom of the [main web page](#). NMCDC also offers one-on-one and group training sessions.

NMCDC's goal is to build capacity among local advocacy organizations to turn information into action.

*Submitted by Tom Scharmen, NMDOH Epidemiologist*

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## Upcoming Events

### Health Councils and Community Gathering - SE Region

~~~April 16 & 17, 2015~~~

Portales, 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: [Jinelle Scully](#) - (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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## Calendar

| DATE                | EVENT                                          | POINT OF CONTACT               |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| TDB                 | Small Group Relationship Building Series       | <a href="#">Jessi Jensen</a>   |
| February 20, 2015   | <a href="#">Uranium Workers Day</a>            | <a href="#">Jordon Johnson</a> |
| April 16 & 17, 2015 | Southeast Health Council & Community Gathering | <a href="#">Jinelle Scully</a> |
| May 4 & 5, 2015     | Statewide Health Equity Gathering              | <a href="#">María Gallegos</a> |
| May 14 & 15, 2015   | Southwest Health Council & Community Gathering | <a href="#">Jinelle Scully</a> |

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## Community Engagement

### Values

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP) maintains core values that guide our community engagement. We highly value community knowledge and maintain that community members directly impacted by health inequities are the experts. We believe the voices and



participation of all groups directly affected by actions should be at the table from the planning to implementation. Along these same lines, community members most directly affected by a proposed action should be meaningfully engaged and hold active leadership roles at each stage of the process.

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## Policy / Advocacy

### Health Impact Assessment

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP) is committed to training county/tribal health councils, PLACE MATTERS teams and community groups in Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Local HIA teams work with community members directly impacted by proposed actions to make a judgment about how a proposed plan or policy will affect health. HIA is a structured process that 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, narratives and quantitative data to inform and improve decision making processes. The NMHEP currently supports [seven HIA teams](#) throughout the state and our national partner, Human Impact Partners supports and leads [two HIA teams](#). Human Impact Partners and the NMHEP team provide technical assistance to all 9 teams. Below we announce two new HIAs recently funded by NMHEP, provide a detailed overview of one of the SW NM Food Policy Council HIA, and elaborate on how the San Miguel HIA team will continue efforts around Health in All Policies as the second phase of their HIA.

### Recently Funded Health Impact Assessments

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP) is honored to announce two new [HIA](#)'s taking place in New Mexico.

[NMHEP](#) and our national partner, [Human Impact Partners](#) will provide technical assistance to the [National Center for Frontier Communities](#) and its regional and local partners (Southwest Food Policy Council, food distributors, [Road Runner Food Bank](#), growers and farmers, and community health advocates) as they work to complete a HIA on The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Plan in rural and frontier communities.

Additionally, [NMHEP](#) and [Human Impact Partners](#) will support the [Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS](#) team as they work with their community partners to complete a Health Impact Assessment on the Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan.

To learn more about [HIAs](#) happening in New Mexico, please contact [Jessi Jensen](#).

## **Southwest NM Food Policy Council: Determining health impacts of emergency food supplies on TEFAP recipients in rural and frontier communities**

The SW NM Food Policy Council HIA will gather local data on both the quantity and quality of food supplies distributed via the local food distributors/food pantries and the impact on low income families in Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Catron counties. The project will allow for the assessment of food quality and quantity and its correlation to health indicators of low-income families in the region, most of whom are children, the elderly and Hispanic. It will also examine the how TEFAP supplies in rural and frontier areas differ from supplies in more urban areas. There is currently no known practice or method for assessing the quality of food supplies distributed to low-income families in New Mexico. The system's only measure of success is based on the total pounds of food distributed per household. This project will pilot a tool for measuring food quality at the local food pantry level. [The National Center for Frontier Communities](#) will serve as the "backbone organization" for this HIA. To learn more about this HIA, please contact [Ben Rasmussen](#).

## **National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health (NLAPH) – New Mexico Team**

Since 2011, [NLAPH](#) has provided training to four-person multi-sector teams from across the country to advance their leadership skills and achieve health equity in their community. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the one-year program uses an experiential learning process that includes webinars, a multi-day retreat, coaching support, peer networking, and an applied health leadership project. There are 12 teams chosen from across the US and Puerto Rico.

Pat Leahan, Patricia Gallegos, Kelly Gallagher, and Yolanda Cruz make up the San Miguel (County) Health Impact Assessment NLAPH team which is the first team in New Mexico. The team will strive for public health improvement through a [Health in All Policies](#) approach implemented as the second phase of a [Health Impact Assessment](#) that is now being completed on an Adult Reintegration Center. The group will continue their work with community members in San Miguel County to support programs, policies and practices that may impact recidivism and bring additional awareness to the evidence linking incarceration and health determinants.

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## **Media and Communications**

### **Highlights**

#### **NMHEP**

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP) team is honored to announce that the NMHEP has been selected as a pilot project by the [WK Kellogg Foundation](#) to receive ongoing communications technical assistance by Fenton Communications. [Fenton Communications](#) will assist the NMHEP team to develop a communications plan, craft messaging and provide opportunities to attend capacity building media workshops. Upcoming events include a webinar on Social Media (tentatively scheduled for February 23), as well as, two in person workshops on Storytelling (tentatively scheduled for March) and Spokesperson/ Media Relations (tentatively scheduled for April). As soon as we have the specific details on these upcoming workshops we will share the information.

## Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS

The [Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS](#) team advocates for sound land-use, environmental, and social policies that provide equal opportunities for safe, clean and healthy neighborhoods and provides guidance to resolve the geographic disproportionate environmental burdens on the people of color, working poor, low-income and vulnerable communities of Bernalillo County. One of the team's community leaders was recently featured in the Albuquerque Free Press. [Please view the article.](#)

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## Sustainability

### NMHEP

## Planning Process

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP) team, advisory council members, PLACE MATTERS leadership, and NM Alliance of Health Council representatives have been actively engaged in sustainability planning over the past few months. Following two meetings in December 2014 in which we came to consensus on our future goals, during the month of January 2015, NMHEP has met on a weekly basis to define strategies and activities based on evaluation findings and lessons learned by the group. Team building has been incorporated into in-person meetings.

Currently, [TCC Group](#) is working to support NMHEP through the development of the future model. We look forward to updating everyone about next steps in this exciting process!

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

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