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**NEW MEXICO
HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP**



New Mexico Health Equity Partnership Press Release

Exciting Changes for former Place Matters Teams

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP) is committed to working with rural, frontier, urban, and border communities and first nations to create access to fresh food, clean environments, safe places, quality education and fair wages for all New Mexicans. This way all children and families can live healthy and quality lives in safe and thriving communities no matter where they are located in New Mexico.

The NMHEP boasts a unique, innovative and culturally diverse partnership, including [40 network members](#), four community-based partners located in [Bernalillo](#), [Doña Ana](#), [McKinley](#) and San Miguel Counties, four [Health Impact Assessment](#) trainers, two national technical support partners, five network steering committee members, and [four staff members](#) committed to the Health of Children, Families and Communities in New Mexico.

Currently, four of the NMHEP's partners, formerly known as the Place Matters teams, are undergoing new branding and names. Due to a trademark issue with the Place Matters name, the Partnership's national partner, the [National Collaborative for Health Equity](#) has invited all former Place Matters teams to re-brand the initiative under their name, Collaboratives for Health Equity. Teams also have the option of choosing their own brand identification.

Many exciting changes are underway for the Partnership's Place Matters teams.

- The NMHEP is pleased to welcome [Dwight Largie](#) as the Coordinator for the San Juan County team.
- Additionally, four of the NMHEP's partners, formerly known as the Place Matters teams, are undergoing new branding and names. Due to a trademark issue with the Place Matters name, the Partnership's national partner, the [National Collaborative for Health Equity](#) has invited all former Place Matters teams to re-brand the initiative under their name, Collaboratives for Health Equity. Teams also have the option of choosing their own brand identification.

In this issue of the NMHEP newsletter, we hope you'll take a moment to get know [Dwight Largie](#) and to learn about the former [Bernalillo County](#) and [McKinley Community](#) Place Matters teams' new names and brands. Please keep an eye out for the former [Doña Ana](#) and [San Juan Community](#) Place Matters new names, as they will be released soon!

To learn more about the NMHEP, visit the Partnership's [website](#) and sign up for our [newsletter](#). Please consider joining the Partnership as a [network member](#) to be part of a larger health equity movement making lasting positive change for all

New

Mexicans.

Submitted by Jessica Espinoza Jensen – NMHEP Grants & Capacity Building Strategist



Bernalillo County

Healthy Places for New Mexico (HP4NM)

Bernalillo County Place Matters (BCPM) finished off 2016 with a bang—continuing development of the Our Land, Our Health Toolkit, participating in the Healthy Here Initiative, and advocating at public hearings advocating for a health equity approach to land use decisions throughout Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. In November 2015, BCPM began hosting the Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT)—an online tool that ranks each city neighborhood based on 40 social, economic, and physical factors important to community health.

In addition to conducting advocacy on behalf of vulnerable communities and developing new initiatives to educate policy makers about health equity approaches, the BCPM team was also hard at work building the organization's capacity, planning and participating in a strategic planning session just before the holidays. The half-day session gave the team the time to explore ideas around what it wants organizationally for BCPM and the space to develop a road map to get there.

Last but certainly not least, BCPM spent the past two months developing a new identity. Although its vision that all people in Bernalillo County, especially high-risk communities of color, will have equitable access to what they need to be

healthy will remain stronger than ever, the team developed an identity that better communicates what it is advocating for: Healthy Places for New Mexico (HP4NM). The team looks forward to introducing the new identity to old and new friends and partners alike over the next few weeks!

Submitted by James Aranda, Director of Healthy Places for New Mexico



HP4NM Strategic Planning Session, 12/16/2015

McKinley County

Expanding the Work in the Northwest Region

The New Mexico Equity and Social Justice Institute (NMESJI) is a newly emerging nonprofit focused on health equity in the Northwest Region. It's mission

is to: use a health equity lens to change systems that perpetuate environmental health disparities related to the impacts of institutional racism and multi-generational trauma, by building the capacity and empowering participating communities within the region to impact equitable policy change.

The NMESJI will serve as the institutional home for the previous Place Matters teams in McKinley and San Juan County. The core members of McKinley Community Place Matters have decided to change the name to McKinley Community Collaborative for Health Equity (MCCHE). The San Juan Community Place Matters initiative will be announcing a new name soon.

The NMESJI areas of focus also include:

- The Rainbow Naatsiilid Program, which raises awareness about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community;
- McKinley Workers Justice Coalition that is conducting a health impact assessment on wage theft in partnership with Somos Gallup, an affiliate of Somos Un Pueblo Unido;
- Addressing the lack of behavioral health and alcohol related harms; and
- Supporting the development of SJ-R Equine Ranch and Farm that plans to work with veterans on the Navajo Nation and Northwest Region.

Both the McKinley Community Collaborative for Health Equity and San Juan Community Place Matters are working on new branding materials, so please look for this information in the near future. As both teams move forward with their respective efforts, the plan is to develop a community-based regional partnership to effectively address local, tribal and state health equity efforts and policy initiatives. There is tremendous excitement about the emergence of NMESJI and partnership in the Northwest region of New Mexico.

Submitted by Jordon Johnson, PhD - Executive Director, NMESJI

San Juan County

NMHEP welcomes new place-based San Juan County coordinator

The NMHEP team is pleased to welcome Dwight Largie, the new place-based coordinator in San Juan County. Please take a moment to get to know him via his personal biography.

"Ya'at'eeh - My name is Dwight Largie. I am of Navajo descent. I am an undergraduate of Fort Lewis College and scholar of Middlebury College in Vermont, where I attained my master's degree at the Bread Loaf School of English.

It has been a passion to promote and empower our communities to be resilient and grounded. It begins within the home; and today circumstance and livelihood sometimes make it difficult to know our neighbors. It is an aspiration of mine and many others to unite our community members under a common goal of sustenance for the sake of sustaining our community's health equity. The goal is to establish initiatives geared toward empowering our San Juan County citizenry to promote sustainability. Our efforts will be based in our intellectual, philosophical and cultural ideologies. These qualities will innately contribute to the many possibilities in innovation that currently lay dormant.

My future work with our San Juan County community and our New Mexico relatives at large, will be a great experience enriched with cultural diversity for an all-encompassing comfort of united nations. It is my pleasure to be an instrumental figure and strategist to look at root causes of negative and positive impacts on our communities. I look forward to meeting our community and promoting a healthy lifestyle for generations to come. Thank you."

Submitted by Dwight Largie, MA, Coordinator of the placed-based San Juan County team



For more information, please visit nmhealthequitypartnership.org

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