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**NEW MEXICO  
HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP**



## New Mexico Health Equity Partnership News

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## Network Engagement

### The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership Network

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP) is committed to ensuring that community voice is part of decision making processes across issue areas. We work 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. We hope you will take a moment to read our newsletter and learn how community partners, across the state are working to create a healthier New Mexico. Please consider joining the NMHEP as a [network member](#) to be part of a larger health equity movement making lasting positive change for all New Mexicans!

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## 2016 NMHEP Statewide Health Equity Gathering

Who: NMHEP core partners, network members, and allies

What: View Draft Agenda-  
[Day 1](#) / [Day 2](#)

When: Thursday, June 16 & Friday, June 17, 2016

Where: [The Hotel Blue](#)  
717 Central Ave NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

more information to follow soon  
or contact [María Gallegos](#) - NMHEP Engagement & Policy Strategist

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## NMHEP partners and network members present on the importance of creating healthy communities by impacting policy change

Ben Rasmussen, Facilitator, Susan Wilger, MPAff, Thomas Scharmen, MPH and Jinelle Scully of NMHEP participated in a panel at the New Mexico Public Health Association Conference on how Health Impact Assessments can bring together a wide array of sector representation and data to inform public health decisions. They reflected on lessons learned from the [HIA project](#) focusing on the emergency food assistance program in southwestern New Mexico.

Jordon Johnson with the McKinley place-based team, served as the keynote speaker at the [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit](#) in Gallup in April. Johnson's talk, titled "Transformation through Collective Action: Knowledge, Equity and Inclusive Practices," focused on creating deeper connections with the people that you work with. Please take a moment to read more about Jordon's talk [here](#).

*Submitted by Jinelle Scully, NMHEP Creative Logistics & Operations Associate*



## Policy & Advocacy

### Reflection on meeting U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

*“We can never end poverty until there is equality.”* This is a statement made by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor during a private reception hosted by the Hispanic Women’s Council (HWC) on April 5, 2016 in Albuquerque, NM. I was fortunate to be one of about 50 guests at the reception.

Justice Sotomayor entered the room quietly, and if not for the team of U.S. Marshals who accompanied her, she blended right into the crowd. The Justice went around the room to every guest and spent 2-5 minutes interacting one-on-one. She was gracious and listened as each of us told her a little about our lives, family and work. She shared personal stories and talked a bit about her memoir [My Beloved World](#), signing copies afterward.

Following the reception the Justice addressed about 600 people who attended the HWC event, *Talk by Sonia Sotomayor*. She spoke briefly, all the time walking among the inter-generational crowd. While the event did not allow for questions from the crowd, in a moderated question/answer session, the Justice responded to 4 questions which had been submitted by members of the HWC. One of the questions selected for a response happened to be the one I submitted and that will be a moment I will never forget!

This event was not the place nor was it appropriate for the Justice to comment or give her opinion on current issues, pending cases, statutes or proposed legislation. In fact, the *Talk* felt more like storytelling with a call to action. Some highlights from the Justice’s talk include:

1. while it is the role of the Justice to use the law to settle disputes between parties that cannot agree, it is our role as community members to change the policies/laws that do not work for us;
2. the Justice shared that she enjoys the part of her job that allows her to travel and engage with community;
3. the importance of mentor-ship (and the value of elder knowledge); and
4. she emphasized the role of arts (poetry, storytelling, music) in our lives.

Two colleagues and NMHEP partners also attended the April 5 event and shared short reflections:

*“There are 2 moments for me that I truly embraced. One is the words around our voices in the lawmaking process and participating in this process. I keep thinking about how our voice matters in policy making, which is really creating laws. Also, I have been thinking about the importance of having a guide to pursuing our life goals, education, etc. The practice of checking in with people or encouraging them to pursue their ideas.*

*Beyond the two moments, I was reminded of the process in making decisions. The message about doing the right thing, the consequences for decisions one makes and that being loyal is paramount.”*

*- Jordon Johnson, PhD, McKinley Community Collaborative for Health Equity*

*“Things that I came away with that can enhance my work is that she affirmed and reminded me 1) Because I always feel that I must be helping others, mentoring others AND she made me think that even though I am older I must have mentors; 2) Of the love she has for family, culture (como nosotros) and of the cultural beliefs that raza has, that taking care of family, friends and elders and being loyal is paramount; 3) That inequality is **intolerable** and that not all laws are correct; 4) When she talked to Obama and he told her of the nomination he said a couple of things- one of which was to STAY CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY; 5) That those who are given gifts have more of a responsibility and an obligation to serve/help community and 6) Do your work with honor.”*

*- Beva Sanchez-Padilla, Organizer, South West Organizing Project, [Facebook.com/NMconmujeres](https://www.facebook.com/NMconmujeres) #NMConMujeres*

While there were many questions I wanted to ask the Justice and thoughts I wanted her to know about my beautiful Nuevo Mexico - in the moment I had to share with her my story I chose to talk about my role in this life as a mom, artist, comadre and social justice advocate. **“Do Good”** were the words of wisdom from Justice Sotomayor and a work ethic I hope is reflected as I contribute my gifts to this health equity work with and in community so that we may all live long healthy lives with dignity and respect.

*Commentary submitted by María Gallegos, Engagement and Policy Strategist*

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## Capacity Building

### Action-Oriented Small Group Gatherings focused on Education & Breastfeeding

The NMHEP partners is currently partnering with six community organizations/members in New Mexico to host action-oriented small group gatherings focused on different issue areas that impact health. The gatherings serve as catalysts to relationship building, empowerment, discovery, and action. In this week's newsletter, we highlight two groups that have recently hosted gatherings.

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### The Somos Unidos para los Niños (SUN) Project Begins to Shine in New Mexico

With support from the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, members of The SUN Project's core committee met in Socorro, New Mexico in March to deepen relationships and begin mapping out an action plan for the next two to three years to transform public education in the state. The overarching goal of The SUN Project is to create a public education framework in New Mexico that is responsive to diverse learners across the state. The hope is that the framework will inform the development of a long-range plan for education in New Mexico that will guide the trajectory of existing and future preK-12 education policies.

The [report](#) at this link is the first in a series being developed by the Borderlands Center for Educational Studies (BoCES) in the College of Education at New Mexico State University. The goal is to inform the conversation as it pertains to public education in New Mexico by shining light on the facts. If you have data questions that [Borderlands Center for Educational Studies](#) (BoCES) can help to address, please feel

to contact us at 575-646-1358 or [mverde@nmsu.edu](mailto:mverde@nmsu.edu).

*Submitted by Michelle Valverde, PhD, Director of Community Outreach Borderlands Center for Educational Studies*



## **Breastfeeding Taskforce: Empowerment through strategic communication**

The NMHEP and the New Mexico Breastfeeding Taskforce partnered to host an “Empowerment through Strategic Communication” Train the Trainer gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 23. The gathering was an opportunity for participants to strengthen relationships and deepen their skills in educating decision makers and the media. The session concluded with participants putting together a public service announcement to educate the public about the importance of breastfeeding polices for mom’s who work in our cities are firefighters, police officers, garbage collectors, etc.

*Submitted by Jessica Jensen, NMHEP Grants & Capacity Building Strategist*





## Partner Capacity Building Opportunities and Events

[2016 Community Partners Conference](#) - The NB3 Foundation's Native Strong: Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Community Partners Conference provides a platform to celebrate the incredible work of their community partners (grantees) and their communities in advancing the health and wellness of Native American children. Please join the NB3 Foundation and its Community Partners (grantees) to share, learn, network with each other, and provide a deeper understanding of the opportunities that exist in the prevention of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes. Check out last year's conference video and visit the conference website to access the agenda, travel logistics, hotel information, and to register.

[Santa Fe Community Foundation](#) - The NMHEP's institutional home, the Santa Fe Community Foundation (SFCF), is committed to supporting nonprofits in achieving their missions with excellence. The SFCF's Philanthropy HUB has been designed as a learning and gathering place for the philanthropic sector. The HUB's programs strive to: 1) deepen philanthropic practice; 2) build nonprofit capacity; 3) provide support for professional advisors; and 4) provide platforms for learning about social issues in community. Upcoming trainings and presentations include:

- May 13 and 20, 2016: [Demystifying the Strategic Plan](#) with Carol Tyroler

If you are a NMHEP network member and you have an upcoming training, workshop, or other capacity building opportunity open to community members and organizations, please send information about it to [Jessi Jensen, Grants & Capacity Building Strategist](#) and the NMHEP team can include it an upcoming NMHEP newsletter.

## W.K. Kellogg Foundation: Program Officer, New Mexico

Nonprofit Professionals Advisory Group is conducting a search on behalf of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for a Program Officer, New Mexico. Reporting to the State Director of New Mexico Programs, the Program Officer will provide leadership and oversight for execution of programs and policy that strives for educated, healthy kids and secure families throughout the State of New Mexico. S/he will screen and recommend grants for funding; build relationships and coalitions throughout the state; conduct site visits; and manage and monitor a portfolio of grant programs and public policy aligned with the strategic framework of the foundation. The ideal candidate will have a master's degree and substantial work experience in program and policy in the areas of focus for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as well as experience developing robust partnerships across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Experience in and a connection to New Mexico's unique philanthropic and cultural environments are critical to this role, as is an appreciation for and understanding of the challenges facing the state's vulnerable populations, especially Native American nations and tribes. A deep and comprehensive understanding of program

design and development along with local, regional, and national networks of contacts is desired. S/he will bring the capacity, skill and hunger to assume leadership and management of a large body of work and foster trust, accountability, and mutual investment both internally and externally. Here is a link to the full description: <http://nonprofitprofessionals.com/job/wkkf-ponm/>

Callie Carroll serves as the main point of contact for this search. Please reach out to her at [ccarroll@nonprofitprofessionals.com](mailto:ccarroll@nonprofitprofessionals.com) or 202-265-0578 to learn more or to network about the position.

## Calendar

DATE	EVENT
May 13, 2016	Small Group Gathering : Reclaiming Feminism
May 18, 2016	Small Group Gathering: Care Coalition – Tewa Women United and the NMHEP
May 20, & June 17, 2016	Small Group Gathering: – Global 505 New Mexico Asian Family Center and the NMHEP
June 16 & 17, 2016	NMHEP Statewide Health Equity Gathering
July or August 2016	Policy/Advocacy Day in Bernalillo County
TBD	Small Group Gathering: Youth Leadership and Shared Learning – La Semilla Food Center, Southwest Organizing Project, Farm To Table, and the NMHEP



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For more information, please visit [nmhealthequitypartnership.org](http://nmhealthequitypartnership.org)

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