

NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP



New Mexico Health Equity Partnership – News

Generously supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
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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 a 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 NMHEP works with low-income communities and communities of color in New Mexico to strengthen their capacity to shift power relations by advocating for systems and policy change that will address structural and institutionalized inequities based on race, class, gender, and geography. The Partnership's vision is healthy, children, families and communities.

Health doesn't just happen as a result of diet, exercise and visits to the doctor's office. Health is impacted by policy and planning decisions that shape where we live, work, learn and play. When these local and statewide decisions are made without the input of diverse community members, the quality of life for New Mexicans diminishes. Our first hand lived experiences, expertise and languages are not included in the dialogue for change. We do not see people who look like us hold decision making leadership positions in our communities. In turn, we cannot grow our food or live our traditional ways; we are not able to learn our histories, share our cultural knowledge, and speak our languages; more of our families are incarcerated; and there are no parks to play outside.

We believe the solutions to New Mexico's challenges lie within the strengths, resiliency and expertise of our communities. Our lived experiences, cultural knowledge and relationships with community members – across generations – are critical to identifying solutions and transforming the conditions where we live, learn, work and play into healthy spaces. To this end, we

collaborate with diverse community members, cross-sectorial organizations and decision makers across urban, rural, frontier, border and tribal areas in New Mexico to strengthen our network in service of building our leadership skills and advocating for policy change. The network provides a unique space for people to join together and organize and mobilize for healthy children, families and communities.

By transforming the conditions we live in (political, social, economic, and environmental), we provide the opportunity for children, families and communities to live safe, healthy and quality lives. This will lead to strong thriving communities.

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New Mexico Health Equity Partnership News

Welcome New PLACE MATTERS Staff

Welcome Kari Bachman, Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS Coordinator



Kari Bachman is the PLACE MATTERS team coordinator for Doña Ana County. Her previous job experience includes coordinating the Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition Program at NMSU

Cooperative Extension Service, working as a farm educator, and serving in the Peace Corps. Kari's passion for social justice is marked by her commitment to practice participatory facilitation methods and her respect for multiple perspectives. She has advocated for health-promoting policies including a healthy food zone ordinance, competitive foods rules, and Child Nutrition reauthorization. Kari obtained her bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College in political science and her master's degree from NMSU in Agricultural and Extension Education. She is currently pursuing a PhD in rhetoric and professional communication at NMSU. In her free time, Kari enjoys collecting oral histories, exploring food ways, experiencing other cultures, and participating in almost any kind of physical activity. Kari can be contacted at - KariBachman@cfsnm.org

Welcome! Two new Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS staff

The Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS (BCPM) team would like to welcome two new team members and PLACE MATTERS staff. Matt Cross-Guillen and James Aranda are the new BCPM Community Education and Community Outreach Co-Coordination. Matt and James bring a breadth of knowledge, skills, experience, expertise, vision, and passion to BCPM's work, and they both have a great deal of experience working with communities in Bernalillo County. Together their combined skills in planning, public health, environmental health, education and so much more, will make them great assets to the BCPM team. Thanks to funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control - Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health/Presbyterian Healthcare Services, they will oversee all things involved in the Land Use toolkit and Leadership Development project and will be involved in education and outreach.

Submitted by Jacque Garcia, Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

NMHEP Highlight - featured local partner

San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS



[San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS](#) (SJCPM) is a group of organizations and citizens from San Juan County joining together to make the places where we live, learn, work and play healthier for ALL members of the community. It addresses health in a broader way than health is normally viewed. SJCPM doesn't just look at medical and physical health of the community, but also aspects of the community such as environmental, educational, economical and the ways those issues can affect the health of San Juan County.

Through partnerships with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership and the National Collaborative for Health Equity, SJCPM looks at the disparities around these issues to determine how to make health more equitable for ALL people through policy change. One approach the team is striving for is called Health in All Policies. Health in All Policies is a collaborative approach that integrates and articulates health considerations into policy making across sectors, and at all levels, to improve the health of all communities and people. It helps decision makers take health into consideration so they can help make the people they are working with as healthy as possible.

Some of the current projects that SJCPM is working on include:

Community Conversations - Community conversations are small groups brought together to discuss community issues and determine how those issues are affecting the population of our community. Using the information gained from these community conversations SJCPM attempts

to find solutions to issues and bring people together to work on making changes throughout the community.

San Juan College Student Housing Task Force - SJCPM is participating in a process to inform policies around student housing and ensure a healthy focus for any housing that is built on San Juan College campus.

Metropolitan Planning Organization -SJCPM members serve on the Complete Streets Advisory with the goal of helping to integrate health into street design and policy around street and sidewalk infrastructure.

Total Behavioral Health - SJCPM is working with Total Behavioral Health, City of Farmington Police Department and the Metropolitan Planning Organization to expand the definition of health and safety to consider social determinants of health. Two facilities are being built to serve San Juan County's homeless, substance abusing population. The programs will serve 85 individuals at a time under the Joint Intervention Program and a new Sobering House. The location of the facilities is adjacent to two high traffic roadways. The organization will use traffic studies and community input to address possible pedestrian injury and fatality.

Excessive Charges from Lending Institutions - SJCPM will be working with its statewide and national partners to address excessive interest charges to low income populations for short term loans.

For more information or to become part of [San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS](#), contact [Pam Valencia](#) Coordinator at 566-5871.

Submitted by Amanda Evans, SJCPM Community Engagement Specialist and Pam Valencia, SJCPM Coordinator



Community Engagement

What is going on at NMHEP

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership recently attended the following events-

- The International District Health Fair, Celebrating Our Community, Celebrating Our Health in Albuquerque, NM on April 11, 2015
- The Incite! Color of Violence 4 Conference, Beyond the State: Inciting Transformative Possibilities in Chicago, IL on March 26 - 29, 2015
- The New Mexico Public Health Association (NMPHA) 2015 Annual Conference, Redefining Public Health: Build Sustainable Pathways in Albuquerque, NM on March 31 & April 1, 2015
- Con Alma Health Foundation Healthy People, Healthy Places (HPHP) Convening, Promoting Health and Equity through Built Environment and Food Access Policy in Albuquerque, NM on April 16 & 17, 2015

International District Health Fair

Celebrating Our Community, Celebrating Our Health



Incite! Color of Violence 4 Conference

Beyond the State: Inciting Transformative Possibilities



Con Alma Health Foundation Healthy People, Healthy Places Convening

Promoting Health and Equity through Built Environment and Food Access Policy



NMPHA 2015 Annual Conference

Redefining Public Health: Build Sustainable Pathways



Policy / Advocacy

Educational Policy/Advocacy Day

NMHEP is piloting a series of “educational” policy and advocacy days in spring and summer 2015 designed to bring the larger network of partners and community members together to support each PLACE MATTERS team’s “educational” policy efforts and engage in associated advocacy trainings and debriefings.

Santolina Community Town Hall and Educational Forum - Press Conference and Community Teach-in



The BCPM team joined several other community partners and organizations to put on a town hall and educational forum that informed the public about how the proposed development of Santolina will affect land, water and health in our communities. *The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership team and representatives from McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS and San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS attended the press conference.*

The goal of the Town Hall was to announce the Public Hearings that took place on March 25-26, 2015. Santolina is a proposed 30,000 home development on Albuquerque's west side that will stretch over 13,700 acres. Local residents are concerned that Santolina will take water resources from the Rio Grande river basin that is desperately needed by the nearby farming communities. Santolina is projected to consume up to 12 million gallons of water every day.

On March 25th, there was a press conference prior to the Public Hearings. Representatives from different organizations spoke on different issues and concerns of the proposed development and the impacts it will have on our land, water and health. Hundreds of people gathered and marched to Civic Plaza in Albuquerque to voice their concerns to the Bernalillo County Commission. The Hearings did not conclude and were scheduled to resume on May 11th, 2015. The Bernalillo County Commission still has not made a decision and will continue hearing appeals.



Submitted by Jacque Garcia, Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

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 [three HIA teams](#). Human Impact Partners and the NMHEP team provide technical assistance to all 10 teams.

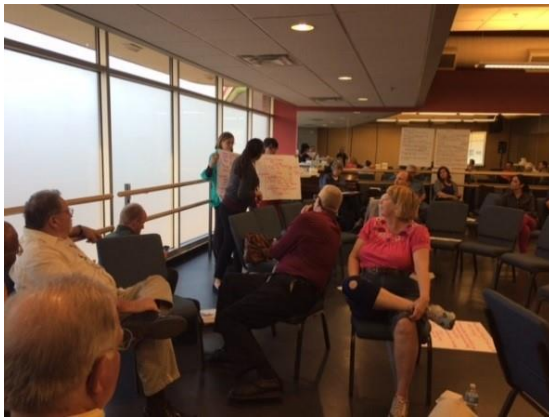
Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS HIA

The Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS (BCPM) team in coordination with New Mexico Health Equity Partnership and Human Impact Partners (HIP) conducted an HIA 101 mini training at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning on April 16, 2015. Thirty individuals attended, including UNM students, UNM faculty, clinicians, neighborhood association representatives, and other community members.

BCPM presented a brief overview on HIA, and then described the Comprehensive Plan HIA update happening in Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. The BCPM HIA Steering Committee is providing feedback to the city planners and consultants on how to consider health in the comprehensive planning process. BCPM is working with the city and county agencies pro actively, with the hopes that the Comprehensive Plan update will incorporate language that addresses improving the health, safety and well-being of neighborhoods. Some aspects of the Comprehensive Plan that BCPM hopes to inform include, transportation, housing, and land use. The team is using an HIA framework within the broader Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to address these particular issues.



The BCPM HIA Steering Committee hosted an HIA Scoping meeting in the International District on April 22, 2015. Approximately 25 people attended the scoping meeting. Specific sections of the Comprehensive Plan and how they affect health outcomes was discussed.



The BCPM HIA Steering Committee hosted its second HIA scoping meeting in Albuquerque's South Valley to learn more about what the community visions for the future of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Submitted by Jacque Garcia, Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

Capacity Building

NMHEP Recent Gatherings

Health Councils and Community Gathering - SE Region



The NMHEP team, the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils, and the NM Department of Health – Health Promotion team coordinated the SE Health Council and Community gathering in Portales. The gathering was hosted by the Roosevelt County Health Council at the Yam Theatre during April 16 and 17, 2015. The theme was Celebrating our Work. Thirty-one (31) health council members, Health Impact Assessment representatives, and community partners from nine counties strengthened relationships with each other and engaged in peer-to-peer learning to advocate for systems and policy change that will improve health. On day 1, health council members shared their work and learned about the State Innovation Model Initiative Design Phase. On day 2, participants went on a tour of the Portales main street Project and engaged in dialogue and interactive activities focused on Health in All Policies, civic engagement and moving from planning to policy and action.

Health Councils and Community Gathering - SW Region

The NMHEP team, the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils, and the NM Department of Health – Health Promotion team coordinated the SW Health Council and Community gathering in Socorro. The gathering was hosted by the Socorro County Health Council at the Best Western during May 14 and 15, 2015. The theme was Celebrating our Work. Thirty (30) health council members, PLACE MATTERS representatives, Health Impact Assessment representatives, and community partners and members from 8 counties strengthened relationships with each other and engaged in peer-to-peer learning to advocate for systems and policy change that will improve community health. On day 1, health council members shared their work with another. This was followed by a tour of community based activities designed to improve health in Socorro, including the teen center, community kitchen, food pantry, and new soccer complex. The tour concluded with a walk and dinner at Sedillo Park. On day 2, participants learned about Health in All Policies, the State Innovation Model Initiative, and methods health councils in Socorro, Grant and Otero counties are using to move from planning to action.



Statewide Health Equity Gathering



On May 4 and 5, 2015, the San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS team co hosted, with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, the first New Mexico Statewide Health Equity Gathering held in Farmington NM. Titled, “Strengthening Our Health Equity Network,” the Gathering brought together PLACE MATTERS teams, Health Impact Assessment teams and Health Councils and community partners from around the state as well as the National Collaborative for Health Equity (NCHE). The gathering was designed to encourage network and alliance building; foster peer to peer learning; organize and educate around policy issues and health in all policies; and incorporate social justice and the arts into the efforts of the network.

The San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS team welcomed participants to San Juan County and highlighted the activities taking place throughout San Juan County including efforts around education, Complete Streets, community conversations and the team’s Community Relations Committee.

Participants were honored with an introduction to the Navajo Wellness Model which incorporates Navajo philosophical teachings of wellness according to the natural daily cycle. The teaching

emphasizes four domains of self-care, family health, family communities, and healthy environment from the Navajo perspective.

Participants were able to engage in robust discussion and reflection around issues important to New Mexico through a very productive Open Space activity.

The "Fun Walk, Run and Roll" participants were blessed with a gentle rain as they stretched their legs on the San Juan River Walk. The rain settled the dust at the Totah Behavioral Health Authority (TBHA) service center allowing participants to experience the excellence of a community program, which serves the homeless relatives of San Juan County. Participants were able to hear about the different programs TBHA offers such as the sweat lodge, outdoor hiking activities, see painting and weaving demonstrations and share a meal.

On day two, participants chose one of three working sessions. The "Health Councils" session brought participants up to date on important issues including the NM Department of Health State Innovation Model (SIM) project and engaged the group in discussion around capacity building and resource development for health councils. The session on "Reclaiming Feminism: Connecting our Lived Experiences to Policy" created a safe space where participants were able to share lived experiences and began the dialogue to connect those narratives to the policies which are the roots causes of inequity. In the "PLACE MATTERS Policy Agenda" session, the New Mexico PLACE MATTERS teams worked with Dr. Autumn Saxton-Ross with the NCHE to prioritize health equity issues which will be addressed through statewide efforts over the next several years. The issues identified in the work session include-

- A statewide Health Equity in All Policies Task Force to ensure health is considered in State Policies-
- An anti-predatory lending law with APR (Annual Percentage Rate) interest rate cap-
- Shared use agreement and designate schools as "community schools" for workforce development, adult education, and open playgrounds; to incorporate Complete Streets Principles in developments-
- Consolidated Environmental Review Act (CERA)/ Environment Department's Environmental Justice Task Force.

The gathering closed with a group consensus session on what it means to strengthen our health equity network and a wrap up was provided by Karen John on how we can move our work forward both individually and collectively.

Submitted by Pam Valencia, San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

Calendar

DATE	EVENT	POINT OF CONTACT
Summer 2015	Action Oriented Small Group Relationship Building Series	Jessi Jensen
August 2015	Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS Educational Policy/Advocacy Day	Kari Bachman
August 2015	San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS Educational Policy/Advocacy Day	Pam Valencia

Media and Communications

NMHEP

Article

Highlights

[The Hawaii Independent - The Red Nation: Border Town Justice Campaign](#)



Article and pictures submitted by Jordon Johnson, McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

[The NM Political Report - Time to invest in our Families and Communities](#)

Article submitted by Jacque Garcia, Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS Coordinator

www.nmhealthequitypartnership.org

[501 Halona Street, Santa Fe, NM 87505](#)

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