

NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP



## New Mexico Health Equity Partnership – News

Generously supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Santa Fe Community Foundation

### [Capacity Building](#)



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*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.

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.

Click these links to "jump" to sections below:

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## **New Mexico Health Equity Partnership News**

**NMHEP Announcements**

**Green Fire Times Article**

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership was recently featured in an article for the Green Fire Times, to read an online copy of the article please [click here.](#)

## THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP

### *Collaboration in Support of Healthy Children, Families and Communities*

Health doesn't just happen as a result of visits to the doctor's office, diet and exercise. Policy and planning decisions that shape where people live, work, learn and play impact quality of life, as well as physical, mental and spiritual well-being. In New Mexico, the quality of health of many individuals, as well as communities, can be traced to economic, environmental and social conditions that are deeply rooted in historical trauma and the pronounced imbalance of geographic resources.

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP), funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Santa Fe Community Foundation, is working to strengthen the capacity of low-income New Mexico communities and communities of color to advocate for systemic and policy changes that address institutionalized inequities based upon race, class, gender and geography. The Partnership's goal: healthy children, families and communities.

*The partners evaluate how a proposed plan, project or policy will affect community health if implemented.*

The NMHEP comprises local, state and national partners, including the National Collaborative for Health Equity, New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils, New Mexico Community Data Collaborative, New Mexico Department of Health—Health Promotion, Human Impact Partners and Con Alma Health Foundation—Healthy People, Healthy Places. The Partnership's extended network includes a broad base of community members, advocacy groups, civic organizations, youth groups, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, legal service providers, universities and other educational entities, government agencies and other allies working closely



L-R: The NMHEP team: Jessi Jensen, David Gaussoin, Jinelle Scully, Maria Callegos

with NMHEP-affiliated organizations. NMHEP also recognizes that effective policy change must have the support of key decision makers, powerbrokers and other leaders.

Based on the belief that the solutions to New Mexico's challenges lie within the resilient fabric of the state's diverse communities, the NMHEP strives to create healthy conditions for families by actively engaging in advocacy that informs decision-making processes. NMHEP's work is structured around three key efforts:

- **PLACE MATTERS (PM):** national initiative of the National Collaborative for Health Equity. There are four PM teams in the New Mexico counties of Bernalillo, Doña Ana, McKinley and San Juan.
- **New Mexico Tribal and Community Health Councils:** Health councils work with communities to address important local health issues based on local health needs and resources.
- **Health Impact Assessments (HIAs):** There are 10 HIA teams in New Mexico. HIAs are a structured process where NMHEP's diverse partners come together to evaluate how a proposed plan, project or policy—in a variety of domains ranging from transportation to housing—will affect community health if implemented. Recommendations based on community knowledge, narratives and quantitative data are provided to inform and improve decision-making processes.

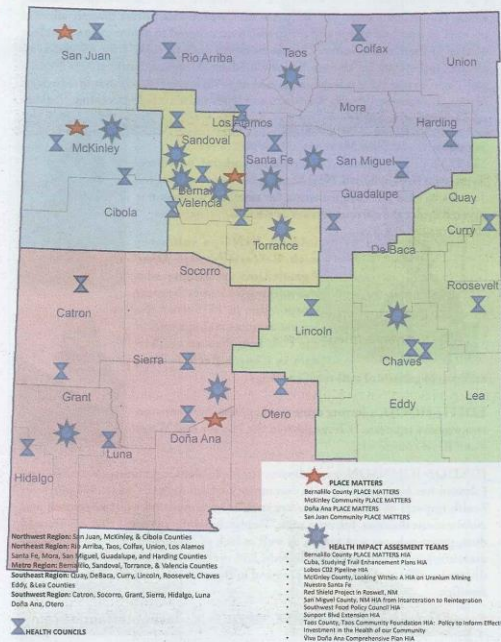
#### COMMUNITY INFORMED DECISION MAKING

NMHEP uses a unique, multi-stakeholder statewide approach tailored to grassroots community assets and need. This approach draws on the collective strengths of diverse partners and allies. Cross-sector relationships foster the leveraging of expertise and resources. Decisions are made collectively and transparently. The Partnership highly values cultural knowledge and engages communities by building on their assets to advocate for policy change. Groups directly affected by proposed policies and projects are afforded a seat at the table, so they can participate from planning to implementation. Community members directly impacted by health inequities hold active leadership roles.

#### COMMUNITY NARRATIVES

The following recent cases demonstrate how NMHEP's partners are actively engaged in educational policy and advocacy in their communities to ensure that health is considered in decision-making processes.

#### NM HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP





## Thank you Kristina St. Cyr!



On February 20, 2015, the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership bid farewell and good wishes to Kristina St Cyr who served as the coordinator for the Dona Ana PLACE MATTERS team since September 2013. With Kristina's leadership and creativity, the Dona Ana PLACE MATTERS team successfully engaged in the strategic planning process- which includes conducting a Health Impact Assessment (to be completed May 1, 2015.) In the Fall of 2014, with less than 6 weeks planning time, Kristina and the Dona Ana PM team were able to organize and host the National PLACE MATTERS Initiative's Action Lab 6 which brought folks from across New Mexico and the U.S. While Kristina will be dearly missed (and New Mexico will always welcome her back), we wish her well in her new position as the Coalition and Field Organizer with the Massachusetts Public Health Association.



**~Job Announcement~**

**Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS (BCPM) is announcing two job postings**

[BCPM Community Education and Outreach Coordinator \(funded through Sept. 2017\)](#) &

[BCPM Community Education and Outreach Assistant Coordinator \(funded through Sept. 2015\)](#)

*Application Deadline: Friday April 10, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m. (MST)*

Position Summaries: The Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS (BCPM) Community Education and Outreach Coordinator AND Assistant Coordinator will work as a full-time (40 hours/week) employees for New Mexico Voices for Children (NMVFC) and the Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS (BCPM) team (financed by the CDC REACH grant as described above). The mission of the BCPM team is to advocate for land-use policies that provide equal opportunities for safe, clean and healthy neighborhoods. Based on existing data and community input, the work of PLACE MATTERS is to identify specific affected communities and address social, economic, and environmental conditions that shape health. PLACE MATTERS teams work with communities to improve opportunities for good health, particularly for low-income communities of color, by addressing the root causes of health inequities. The BCPM team's focus is on the influence of place (where one resides, works, plays, etc.) on health and the development of community capacity to address the intersection of place and health. We seek an individual who will: 1) implement collaborative strategies with Bernalillo County communities to build capacity to influence changes that affect the health and safety of Bernalillo County neighborhoods; 2) assist with community coalition building and community outreach; and 3) oversee and assist in the finalization, dissemination, and implementation of the Leadership development and planning and land-use policy training program

If you have questions, please contact the BCPM Coordinator, Ms. Jacque Garcia via e-mail: [jgarcia@bcplacematters.com](mailto:jgarcia@bcplacematters.com) or call: 505-244-9505 You can also find this information on our web site at: [www.bcplacematters.com](http://www.bcplacematters.com)

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## **Policy / Advocacy**

**Educational Policy Effort - Uranium Workers Day**

**McKinley County: Looking Within – An HIA on Uranium Mining**



McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS uses a health-equity lens to address environmental health disparities and explore how institutional racism and multigenerational trauma impact community health. Over the course of two years, great strides have been made in elevating community voices and concerns about the health impacts of the uranium legacy in the county. The soon to be completed HIA took into consideration health impacts related to environmental contamination and pollution, relocation and displacement, community efficacy and cultural relevance of the land. During the recent state legislative session, McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS was one of the sponsors of Uranium Workers' Day at the Roundhouse, organized to focus public attention on New Mexico's uranium legacy. Over 200 people shared their stories, advocated for policy change and spoke about the health impacts of uranium mining and milling.



*Submitted by Jordon Johnson, McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS*

## **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.

## **San Miguel County: An HIA of the Proposed Northeast New Mexico Adult Reintegration Center**

Communities in San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe counties struggle with higher-than-average rates of unemployment, substance abuse, DWIs, poverty, lack of access to health care and other basic services. These conditions lead to higher incarceration and recidivism rates. The health inequities among those who end up incarcerated are especially apparent. In spite of these challenges, these communities demonstrate deep partnerships and embody diverse skill sets and strengths, resiliency and determination to come up with solutions.

In 2014, the San Miguel County Detention Center and its Citizen Advisory Committee, Las Vegas Peace and Justice Center, San Miguel County Family and Community Health Council, New Mexico Highlands University Foundation, NMHU School of Social Work students, community members who were formerly incarcerated, and other stakeholders, with assistance from Human Impact Partners and the NMHEP team, worked together to conduct an HIA on a proposed adult-reintegration center in northeastern New Mexico. The assessment considered potential impacts of the proposed center on addiction, violence and recidivism.

The assessment process served as a mechanism to develop evidence-based recommendations for how the reintegration center should be implemented in order to improve health in northern New Mexico. The group's report made it possible to effectively communicate with the San Miguel County Commission. The presentation of the final HIA report to the San Miguel County Board of Commissioners was made on March 10, 2015.





*Submitted by the San Miguel County Health Impact Assessment Team*

## **Proposed Lobos CO2 Pipeline HIA**

Sometimes, the most unanticipated events can spur a group of previously nonaligned—and even adversarial—individuals and organizations to respond to a call to action and galvanize around an issue perceived as potentially harmful to all. Such is the case with the proposed Kinder Morgan Lobos CO2 pipeline. The landowners and Manzano Land Grant heirs of a sparsely populated frontier county would be most impacted by the project.

It is a David-and-Goliath tale that pits the third-largest global corporation and a federal agency against community members from a traditional Hispanic land grant. These families are steeped in a culture and way of life that is inextricably linked to the land, water, mountains and forests rich with sacred sites. Joining these land grant families are not only ranching families but also retirees who migrated to the area attracted by the availability of large tracts of unspoiled affordable land and an active arts community. Together, they formed a citizens group, “Resistiendo,” and reached out to other communities for support. The Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community and the New Mexico Department of Health—Health Promotion specialist responded to the call. That initiated the HIA process. Human Impact Partners provided technical assistance and expertise. The NMHEP team contributed mentorship and the opportunity to network with other HIA teams around the state. The local steering committee and all involved have given voice to a marginalized population, as well as purpose and direction to the Community Health Improvement Council. The participants report that a sense of empowerment has come from engagement in collective action around a common goal.

*Submitted by the Steering Committee of the Lobos CO2 Pipeline Health Impact Assessment Project*

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## **Capacity Building**



## 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.

[print, post and share flyer here](#)

[Please click here to register](#)

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### Health Councils and Community Gathering - SW Region

~~~May 14 & 15, 2015~~~

Socorro, 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.

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[Please click here to register](#)

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## Calendar

| DATE                | EVENT  | POINT OF CONTACT               |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| April 16 & 17, 2015 | Southeast Health Council & Community Gathering         | <a href="#">Jinelle Scully</a> |
| TBD                 | Small Group Relationship Building Series 1st Gathering | <a href="#">Jessi Jensen</a>   |
| May 4 & 5, 2015     | Statewide Health Equity Gathering                      | <a href="#">Jinelle Scully</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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## 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](#) is assisting the NMHEP team to develop a communications plan and craft messaging. Moreover, they are providing capacity building media workshops. Upcoming events include- in person workshops on Storytelling (tentatively scheduled for May 21), Social Media (tentatively scheduled for early June), and Spokesperson/ Media Relations (tentatively scheduled for late June). As soon as we have the specific details on these upcoming workshops we will share the information.

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

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

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