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**NEW MEXICO
HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIP**



New Mexico Health Equity Partnership News

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Network Engagement



Deepening Our Partnerships and Commitment to Health Equity in New Mexico

The New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP) is excited to announce the selection of our four core community-based partners ([Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS](#), [Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS](#), [McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS](#), [San Miguel Health Impact Assessment team](#)) who are working in their respective communities to improve health by addressing economic justice, environmental justice, labor-rights, land-use policies, and to prioritize substance abuse treatment rather than incarceration. During 2016, the NMHEP core partners will hold an integral role in the Partnership and will engage in:

- The development of the Health in All Policies framework and statewide policy agenda and associated meetings and trainings (i.e. power mapping);
- Planning meetings for the Statewide Health Equity Gathering;
- Hosting one policy/advocacy day and attending other core partners policy/advocacy days; and
- Action-oriented small group relationship building series.

Please stay tuned as additional information about our core partners will be posted on the [NMHEP website](#).

Additionally, the NMHEP is excited to invite diverse individuals and organizations who are in agreement with the [NMHEP's mission and vision](#) and committed to partnership within and between organizations and community to advance health equity in New Mexico to sign up as a *NMHEP network member*. Benefits include opportunities to:

- Be part of a larger movement in New Mexico other to advance health equity;
- Attend the Statewide Health Equity Gathering and connect your local health equity efforts to the development of a Health in All Policies Framework and statewide policy agenda;
- Participate in the NMHEP's peer to peer learning community; and
- Learn about the NMHEP's events, volunteer opportunities, and efforts via our newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that [Strong Families New Mexico](#), [Chainbreaker Collective](#) and [Farm to Table New Mexico](#) have already signed up as NMHEP network members. We encourage you and your organization to demonstrate your commitment to health equity in New Mexico by signing up as a network member via this [online form](#).

As the NMHEP deepens our partnerships and builds out our network, we are seeking [nominations for the Network Steering Committee](#) members to support our efforts. The NMHEP's Network Steering Committee will consist of a small group of members, committed to supporting the NMHEP team and network carry out our mission, vision and goals during 2016. Responsibilities will include assistance with: 1) high level strategic guidance; 2) the development of the Health in All Policies Framework and Statewide Policy Agenda; 3) engaging and educating decision makers to ensure health and equity is considered in decision making processes; 4) and fundraising. Please send your nominations for the NMHEP Steering Committee to [María Gallegos, Engagement & Policy Strategist](#) by December 21, 2015.

Submitted by Jessica Eva Jensen, Grants & Capacity Building Strategist

Policy & Advocacy





Equity Summit 2015: All-In for Inclusion, Justice, and Prosperity

"The first move from chaos isn't order- it's creativity...And given the means, there is no limit to what this community can create..."- Luis Rodriguez, author

There is evidence to show that the environments we live, work, learn and play have a lifelong impact on our health. Since we know that it is through policy and practice that decisions about our environments are made it is imperative that we work to embed health considerations into decision-making processes across a broad array of sectors.

As a response to the increased inequalities, inequities and injustices that our nation, state and local communities are experiencing, comes the call to action. Across the country and in our local communities, movements to address state violence that targets our most vulnerable communities- low income communities of color have put issues of racial, social, environmental and economic justice on the national agenda. We are demanding action, collaboration and meaningful change at local, state, and national levels.

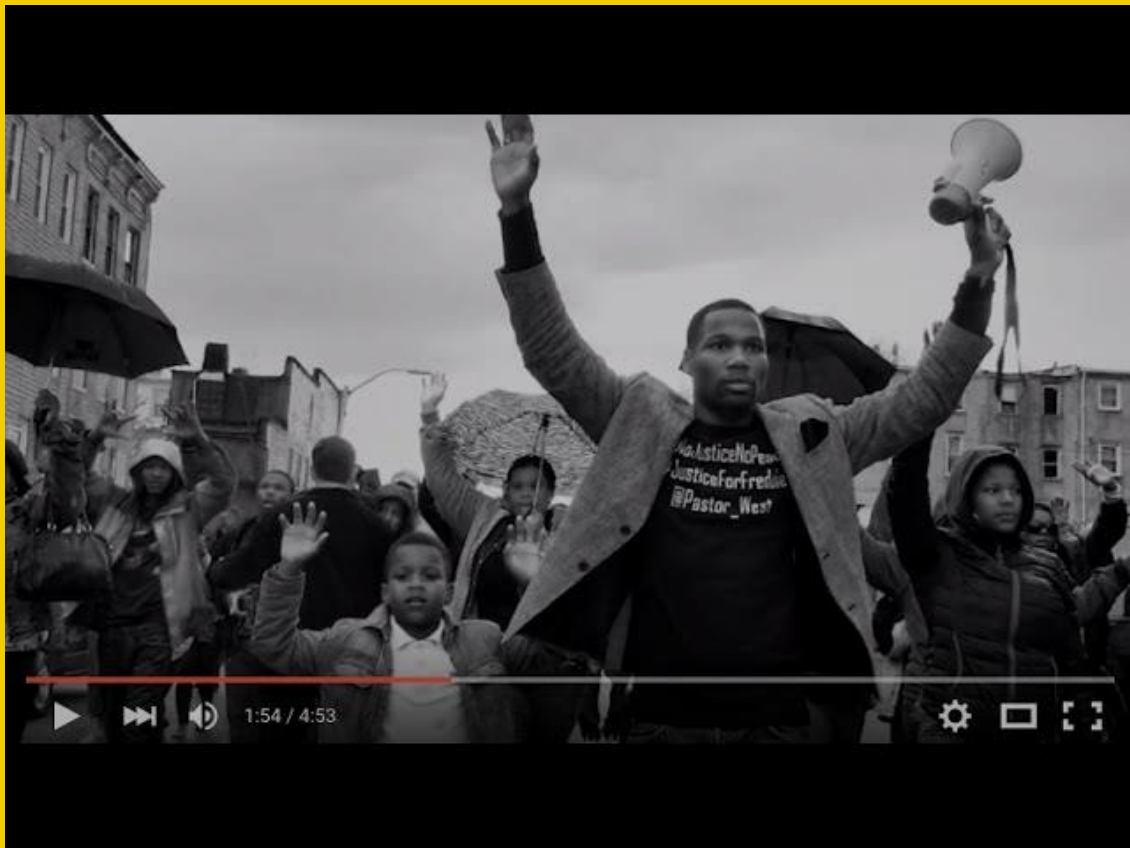
The NMHEP supported a delegation of sixteen leaders, comprised of the NMHEP Team and twelve of its statewide partners, to attend the 2015 Equity Summit (organized by Policy Link) in Los Angeles, California. The NMHEP Delegation joined thousands of other dynamic leaders, advocates and equity stakeholders at the Summit to take on some of the most pressing social issues of our time.

From October 26-29, summit attendees built new skills through over 60 session offerings, networked with other leaders and learned about strategies in community organizing, research, communications, and advocacy from speakers and presenters who are putting equity at the center of their demands for real and lasting change. Some of the most meaningful peer learning experiences and relationship building happened in between sessions where folks had small group or one on one conversation.

Summit attendees also had the opportunity to explore Los Angeles through mobile workshops. During one of the mobile workshops participants visited *Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural* and Bookstore where they heard from owners *Luis* and *Trini Rodriguez* how art is transforming community. The last stop of the mobile workshop was at the Great Wall of LA mural at the LA River where participants experienced Art in Action with *Contra-Tiempo* Urban Latin Dance Theater in a Community Choreographic Laboratory session. *Contra Tiempo* showcased excerpts of their newest creative work, *Agua Furiosa* – inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *Oya* the Afro-Cuban deity of wind and storms, which challenges the audience to confront the harsh realities of race in our country. Workshop participants had the opportunity to create and present their own interpretation of *Agua Furiosa* followed by a storytelling circle sharing lived experiences around storms, fear and nature.

In this time of transformational change in our communities, we must work together toward a new policy paradigm driven by real community engagement. In the next year, the NMHEP Delegation will be working together to build the Health in All Policies framework for the Statewide Policy Agenda. It is time for healthy public policy. Do you agree? Sign on as a NMHEP network member.

Submitted by María Gallegos, Engagement & Policy Strategist



"Our Moment" at Equity Summit 2015

Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS Trains Residents in Policy Advocacy

On August 7th, residents from across Doña Ana County improved their skills in advocating for health in their communities. Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS (DAPM) conducted the bilingual policy advocacy event in collaboration with the Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice. Joining local residents were representatives of 1 Santa Fe, San Juan Community PLACE MATTERS, McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS, and the NMHEP.

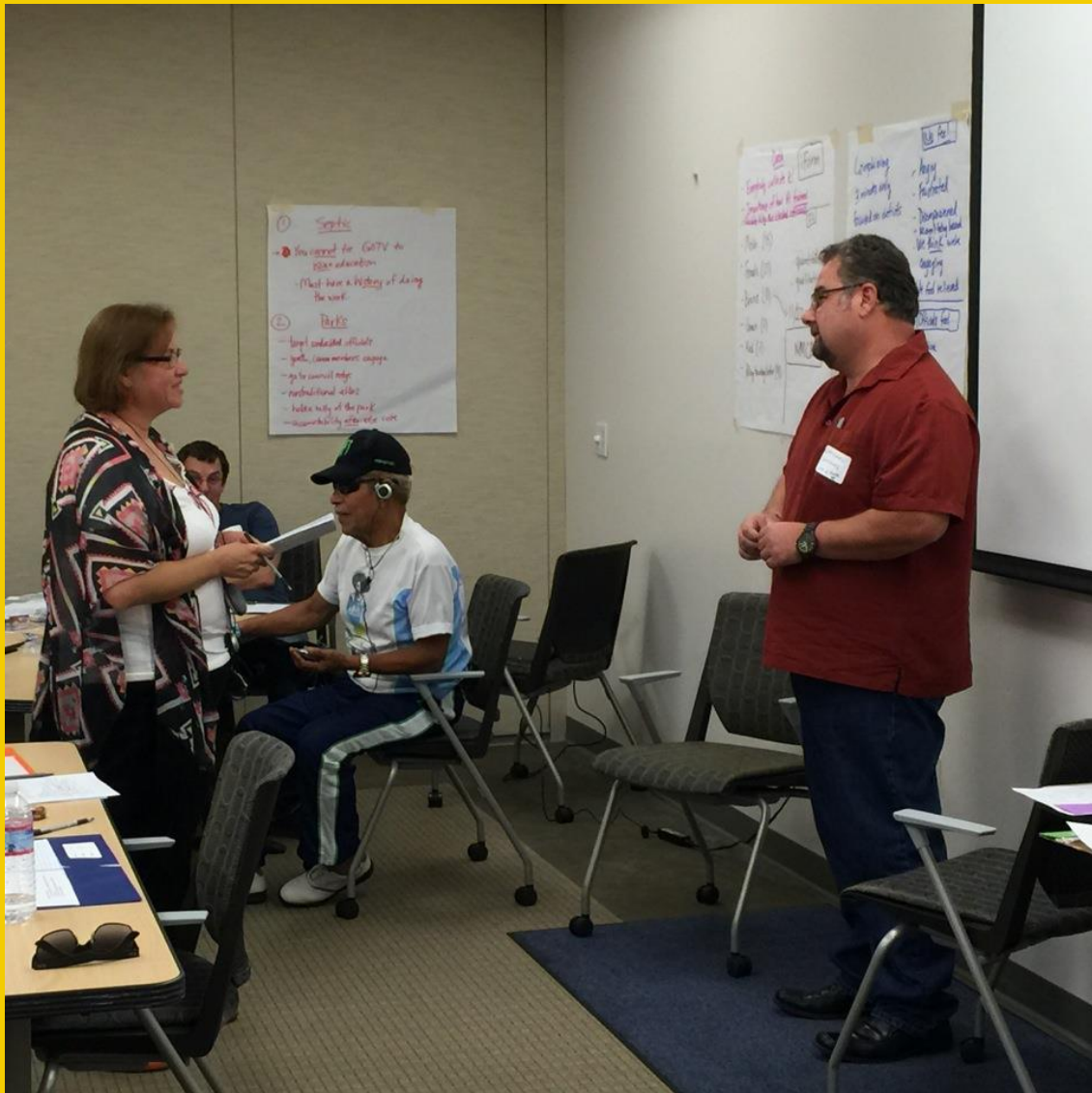
Participants explored the differences between advocacy and lobbying with speakers from the Center for Civic Policy, practiced crafting and delivering their own advocacy messages, and heard tips from local policy makers on how to be effective advocates.

One attendee wrote, "I got lots of ideas for ways to be positively and actively engaged!" Another shared, "Me gustó mucho el conocer gente nueva y saber que toda esta gente está en un mismo canal, o sea, interesada en hacer cambios" ("I liked getting to know new people and learning that everyone here is tuned to the same channel; in other words, interested in making changes.")

Attendees also participated in an Empowerment Congress (EC) meeting the following day. The EC is a community engagement organization sponsored by Ocotillo Institute, and many EC members are members of the DAPM team.

DAPM is continuing to build community capacity to advocate for health through its PMAP initiative, which trains community members to map assets and challenges in their communities and to use that information to advocate for policy change.

Submitted by Kari Bachman, Doña Ana PLACE MATTERS Coordinator





Capacity Building

NMHEP supports Health Impact Assessments to address wage theft, restorative justice to families impacted by the trinity testing, and underfunding of the Indian Health Services in Santa Fe

The [New Mexico Health Equity Partnership](#) (NMHEP), Santa Fe Community Foundation (SFCF) is pleased to announce that is awarding \$105,000 in grants to support Health Impact Assessments (HIA) in rural and native communities in New Mexico. These funds will support HIAs led by community members to ensure that health is considered in policy decision making processes regarding 1) wage theft in McKinley County; 2) the Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act, and the 3) impacts of the Federal Indian Health Services budget on the Santa Fe Indian Health Services.

Through the NMHEP's HIA Technical Assistance Training Program, local technical assistance providers located in Doña Ana, McKinley, San Miguel, and San Juan counties will provide culturally appropriate technical assistance to the three new HIA teams as part of their training program. The HIA efforts will serve to strengthen the network and capacity of local HIA technical assistance providers, as well as to strengthen the skills of community-based HIA teams to ensure health is considered in decision making processes that impact New Mexicans. The HIAs will ultimately address inequities tied to racism and improve community

health.

The NMHEP via has invested more than \$300,000 in HIAs in New Mexico and has partnered and provided technical assistance to ten HIAs during the past three years. Through the financial support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the SFCF, the NMHEP has helped to ensure that health is considered in policies and planning decisions focused on gentrification, built environment, environmental justice issues, trails and parks, food, and a reintegration center.

To learn more about how you can support these community-based efforts and help to ensure health is considered in decision making processes, please contact Jessica Eva Jensen, NMHEP Grants & Capacity Building Strategist.

Submitted by Jessica Eva Jensen, Grants & Capacity Building Strategist

A Health Impact Assessment on Wage Theft

McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS has partnered with Somos Gallup and Somos Un Pueblo Unidos to conduct a health impact assessment on wage theft and build the capacity of low wage workers in McKinley County. Wage theft impacts families when workers are not paid overtime, misclassified, not paid the minimum wage, or not paid. Often, low wage workers may encounter wage theft, yet do not report the situation. We are conducting a health impact assessment to protect and expand protections of low wage workers. This also provides an opportunity to bring communities together across cultural differences in order to build the power of the people.

Submitted by Jordon Johnson, Executive Director of McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS

Potential Impact of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments on the Health of People of New Mexico

On July 16, 1945, the US Government tested the first nuclear device called "Gadget" in what was designated

the "Trinity Site" in south central New Mexico. The Government described the area as "remote and uninhabited". In reality there were more than 40,000 people living in the four counties surrounding the Trinity Site; they are Otero, Lincoln, Socorro and Sierra Counties. Some of the highest cancer rates in the U.S. are found in these counties. The people of New Mexico were the first victims of an atomic bomb and were unknowing, unwilling, uncompensated, innocent participants in the world's largest science experiment.

The Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (TBDC) founded in 2005 by Tina Cordova and the late Fred Tyler have been working for 10 years to bring attention to the negative health effects from radioactive fallout resultant of the Trinity test and have for many years partnered with Joni Arends of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS), Holly Beaumont of Interfaith Worker Justice-New Mexico (IWJ-NM) and Dr. Maureen Merritt of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) in this endeavor.

No epidemiological study of the resultant illnesses has ever been done. Part of the work accomplished by the TBDC has been the development and collection of health surveys from people living in the communities closest to the Trinity Site. It has been a process entirely carried out by volunteers. The HIA grant will provide the much needed resources to expand and fully formalize the collection and interpretation of the health surveys.

In 1990 the US Government set up a fund called the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to compensate people who were made sick living downwind of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. The fund has been available for people in parts of Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Colorado – and uranium miners in some parts of New Mexico - who have been affected by the radiation exposure. New Mexico downwinders have never been included in this fund although the people of New Mexico were the very first downwinders. The fund has paid out over \$2 billion in claims and provided invaluable health care coverage to the downwinders of the Nevada test site.

For five years amendments to RECA have been introduced by Senator Udall and others to include New Mexican downwinders in the compensation program. Though we gather more Congressional signatures in support of its passage each year, key Congressional Committees have not yet scheduled a hearing on the Amendments. It is the goal of the TBDC, CCNS, IWJ-NM and PSR to utilize the data collected through the HIA to inform the decision for why New Mexico should be included in the RECA "downwinders" program.

Submitted by Tularosa Basin Downwinders HIA team

Health Impact Assessment: Indian Health Services Budget and Urban Indian Budgeting Decisions

From 1998-2010, the Indian Health Service (IHS) was forced to operate on its 1998 budget, during a time when healthcare spending per capita more than doubled. This under funding forced the IHS to make serious cuts to available services at facilities throughout the country. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act was permanently enacted into law with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and currently an annual budget is submitted with projected costs based on consultation with tribal leaders and key stakeholders (www.IHS.gov). The existing budget allocates funding for only 54,000 urban American Indians residing in 57 sites nationwide, providing basic healthcare services for only 1.3% of the urban American Indian population. Approximately 78% of American Indians do not live on their home reservations, making the estimated budget for urban IHS facilities at far below need. Although the Affordable Care Act mandates health insurance coverage for all Americans, enforced by penalty, 26.5% of Urban American Indians are without health insurance, compared to only 17.6 of the general US population. Very little data exist that describes the impact of IHS under funding on the urban American Indian population, locally or nationally.

This HIA will examine the impact of underfunding of the Santa Fe Indian Health Service Hospital on the Santa Fe Urban Indian community. At this time, there is very little documentation of the health effects from the under funding and defunding of IHS facilities on urban American Indian communities. This HIA will provide important information on the health effects of the budgetary decisions made by the federal government on IHS, and this information can be used to inform future budgetary proposals. **Specifically, this research will quantify the extent to which Santa Fe's Urban American Indian community is impacted by chronic illness and other conditions that require specialty care not eligible for contract health payment, and provide a summary of the health needs not being met by the IHS clinic at the time of the HIA.**

Contact information for this HIA is - Santa Fe Indian Center and Emily Haozous, PhD, RN, FAAN- UNM College of Nursing

Submitted by Emily Haozous, PhD, RN, FAAN- UNM College of Nursing



Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS

Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS went through a major transition this summer—welcoming Community Outreach and Education Coordinator Matt Cross-Guillen to the team, saying goodbye to former Program Director Jacque Garcia who moved out of state to accomplish other ambitions, and welcoming new Program Director James M. Aranda into the organization.

Throughout the summer and into fall 2015, the Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS team conducted extensive research and outreach among partners, allies, and community members throughout Bernalillo County and greater New Mexico to continue developing the Healthy Places NM multi-media Toolkit and in-person Training. The purpose of the toolkit is to help community members understand how land use policies impact community health and give them the resources and information they need to organize their communities and to engage in the decision making process to implement policies that will create healthy communities. The team collaborated with a University of New Mexico student who helped with the team's Our Place Matters Social Media campaign to get the word out about PLACE MATTERS and the Healthy Places NM Toolkit.

Throughout September, the BCPM team planned and facilitated three Healthy Places NM Toolkit Workshops with individuals and community organizations in Bernalillo and Doña Ana Counties to introduce them to the Toolkit and provide training on use of the Toolkit as a resource. A total of 32 participants attended the trainings, with over ten community organizations in total represented. Participants were given a preview of the toolkit and were asked to give feedback to improve upon the toolkit and training. The team is actively developing new content for the toolkit and training curriculum and will conduct five trainings throughout Bernalillo County and the state in 2016.

Submitted by James Aranda, Bernalillo County PLACE MATTERS Coordinator



Calendar

DATE

EVENT / POINT OF CONTACT

January 13, 2015

NMHEP Network Reception - Santa Fe, NM

[Jinelle Scully](#)

January 13 - 14, 2015

HIA Training, Santa Fe, NM

[Jessi Jensen](#)



For more information, please visit nmhealthequitypartnership.org

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P.O. Box 1827, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1827

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