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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 affordable transportation, fresh food, clean environments, safe places, health care, 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!

The NMHEP would like to express our gratitude to teammate, María Gallegos and network steering committee member, Nelsy Dominguez for their commitment to supporting community to impact policy to improve health. They will both be moving on to exciting new positions.



"I enjoyed the many years I contributed to the work of the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership. It was because of the humility instilled in me by my *Abuelo*, my bilingual abilities, historical/social/political knowledge and eternal love for *Nuevo Mexico* that I was comfortable and successful working in this statewide initiative. Amigos, our paths will cross again as I begin the next part of my Journey where I will be doing education and policy work in traditional farming and water rights. See you all in the next adventure!"- *María Gallegos*



"Life has a way of surprising us when we least imagine... And, so it is that quite unexpectedly I accepted the opportunity to work alongside another dynamic team dedicated to improving the health and well-being of New Mexicans. Starting mid-July, I will assume the role of Program Director at the Con Alma Health Foundation.

I am thankful for all that I have learned and for the opportunity to work with so many amazing people over the last 5 ½ years as Deputy Director with Farm to Table, as the New Mexico Farm to School state lead to the National Farm to School Network, as a Founding Board Member of the New Mexico Resiliency Alliance and as a Steering Committee member of the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership! While understandably I will no longer continue to fulfill these roles, I very much look forward to our continued partnership as we, together, work towards a healthier and strong New Mexico! With gratitude" - *Nelsy Dominguez*

We are also honored to welcome Hazel James as the coordinator for the San Juan Community Collaborative for Health Equity team.



"Ya'at'eeh (Greetings) To All My Relations.

I am a Dine'/Navajo, my K'e'/Clanship relations are: I am Born for the Zuni Edgewater People; my father is Black streak wood People; maternal grandfather is Big Water; paternal grandfather is Salt People. I am a wife, a proud mom, a joyful grandmother, and a happy gardener.

I'm happy to share with you, my life learning experiences. First I credit my Maternal and Paternal Grandparents for their valuable Dine' teachings. I was taught to speak my language first and Dine' teachings from them. I reminisce my grandparent's warm and gentle ways, their kind words, that gives me comfort, even today. Dine' ways of doing and knowing helped me to be self-determinate-d, to move forward into my young adulthood and now as an Elder. With my life learning experience, I've gain work ethics and indigenous protocol while working on community issues. I've worked with Dine' youth leaders, community elders, elected officials, as they became my teachers. I received positive knowledge, wisdom, life ways, and conducting of one's self as being Dine' first. And to acknowledge the ancestors, our culture and nature. As I worked in many aspects with the people in retrospect of indigenous ways, that makes me who I am today! I continue to learn from the people; of the many challenges we face from injustices in addressing social, health and environmental issues as they relate to Human Rights; Health Justice, Earth Justice and Dine' Food Justice. I seek to advocate within whatever capacity to bring people together in harmony to address social change in recommended policy work. I hope to equip the people with the strength of compassion; understanding the need for a Healthy Nation, for survival, and to encourage a safe environment with clean water and air. I hope to build a respectable working relationships with all entities, resources, grassroots and grasstops. Ahe'hee / Thank you, To All of My Relations!" - *Hazel James*

The Santa Fe Community Foundation celebrates 35 years and welcomes Bill Smith, who has a background in health equity, as its new CEO



Policy & Advocacy



37th Anniversary of the Church Rock Uranium Tailing Spill

This year will mark the 37th anniversary of the largest accident releasing radioactive materials in the United States history.

In the early morning hours on July 16, 1979, an earthen dam that held liquid uranium waste broke, releasing 1,000 tons of solid radioactive mill waste and more than 90 million gallons of acidic and radioactive liquids into the Rio Puerco. The contaminants flowed downstream through the town of Gallup and across nine Navajo chapters. Residents in the area tell stories of being out herding sheep and then seeing a wave of green liquid coming their way. Some of them were covered in it while they returned home.

The Red Water Pond Road and Church Rock communities live adjacent to this spill and have lived with the impacts of uranium mining and milling – the process of extracting uranium from mined uranium ore – since the 1960s. Within this small area are three Superfund sites, recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as highly contaminated sites requiring cleanup. There are two abandoned mine sites and a mill site – the Kerr-McGee Quivira mine site, the North East Church Rock (NECR) mine and the United Nuclear Corporation (UNC's) mill site. The combined proximity and lack of or slow clean up of these facilities has been a concern for residents since learning of the potential toxicity of uranium and the by-product of its mining and milling.

The community continues to respond to concerns about contaminated areas and dealing with the future cleanup process where some people will relocate during this process. This Red Water Pond Road Community association has a strong connection to the land with many families having lived in the area for over seven generations – long before uranium mining began here. Not only do members of this community suffer from ill health from working in the mines, many individuals struggle with environmentally induced post-traumatic stress syndrome from their experiences living in the contaminated area and dealing with the slow and arduous cleanup process. Despite recognition that these mine and mill sites require substantial and long term cleanup to mitigate the existing effects of uranium mining to the area, to

date, cleanup of existing abandoned uranium mines in the region has been adequate.

The Red Water Pond Road Community Association believes that people need to support one another and cherish all our families and communities, just as Diné elders have practiced.

This historic event is open to all ages where people will hear the struggles encountered by community members on a daily lives, the healing yet to come for the people and Mother Earth, and the efforts to raise awareness in the local area, tribally, statewide and nationally.

Information will be available about the report Looking Within: A Health Impact Assessment on Uranium Mining. Given the historical lack of attention to the health risks associated with uranium mining, the years of impacts to McKinley County – including the Navajo Nation lands – and the devastating existing environmental contamination in Northwest New Mexico, McKinley Community PLACE MATTERS conducted a health impact assessment to analyze the impacts of uranium mining.[Follow the link to view the article.](#)

For more information, please visit: www.swuraniumimpacts.org or contact Jordon Johnson at 505-503-5183.

Submitted by Jordon Johnson, PhD- Executive Director, NM Equity and Social Justice Institute



Capacity Building



Updates from the San Juan Community Collaborative for Health Equity

San Juan Community Collaborative for Health Equity Coordinator, Ms. Hazel James inspired Navajo Youth with selected photos in a power point presentation to Navajo Youth at the 10th Annual Youth Conference in Shiprock, NM on June 28, 2016: "Restoring and Celebrating Family Wellness".

The above photo was taken from the NMHEP State Wide Health Equity Conference mural drawn by artist Erica Bota, on June 16 and 17, 2016, in Albuquerque, NM.

Artist Erica Bota, simultaneously conducted her artistry/drawing while the NMHEP Statewide Health Equity Conference Participants are in group discussions around important topics and issues. The advocacy alignment identified equity issues in policy work and in acknowledgments all race equality to research improvements for community health and social education, and etc.

On June 28, 2016, Hazel James, San Juan Community Collaborative for Health Equity Coordinator, prepared for a presentation to present to young Navajo Youth, from grades Eight thru twelfth graders. Presentation titled: "Dine' Wellness and Dine' Activism".

The selected photo of the colorful mural was a part of the power point group discussion among the youth, regarding Native American Citizenry status as a second class citizen through the act of U.S. Congress in 1924, named "Citizen Act of 1924, (second class citizenship of Native Americans). As such, Statutory Citizen VS. Constitutional Citizen. No equity in this picture, there is a need for a "Full Citizenship for Native Americans" today!

The students were surprised to learned of this status, they had many questions about why? And how can this be changed? Answer: Keep in school, education, research federal, state, and tribal policies that effect you, as an individual, learn historical facts, teach one another, study protocols, Indigenous knowledge, organize...be advocates.

The three principles of direct action

1. Win Real, Immediate, Concrete Improvements in People's Lives;
2. Give People a sense of Their Own Power;
3. Alter the Relations of Power

Decolonization issues were also addressed among the work of the following organizations. The presentation also introduced the "Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance" an Indigenous knowledge focused organization; and COPE / Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment organization as collaborators of the Navajo Food Organizations, with their mission and overlapping work efforts.

The presentations covered a variety of areas or aspects of what is happening within the region of San

Juan and in the area advocacy work being implemented. The interest of the students were accepting and wanting to learn more about their culture with Foods, Nutrition, Environment, social status, artistry skills, organizing techniques and many more topics. The presentation was a successful session for all.

Submitted by Hazel James, Coordinator San Juan Community Collaborative for Health Equity

Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance



DFSA premises:

-Indigenization processes; Decolonization leads to wholesome well-being; keep our land sustainable, take care of it; conserve water, grow food; youth involvement, change behaviors with kind values, principals, use Dine' Knowledge – a Dine' version tool kit, healing from historical trauma and resilience. Use of Hozhogoo na ada curriculum, for research and evaluation processes.



Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance is in partnership with COPE – Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment of Gallup, NM. Partnership activities includes:

- *Increase knowledge on food safety, traditional food demos, nutrition, with local growers and community members;*
- *Explore formation of food and Clan Mother council with regional food policy councils, raise awareness among tribal leaders and community stakeholders of Navajo foods;*
- *Facilitation of yearly COPE Food Symposium;*
- *Youth awareness of food literacy and traditional health;*
- *Promote traditional Dine' food system restoration, Dine' food literacy, food culture and language participatory research.*

Partner Capacity Building Opportunities and Events

[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 HUBs programs strive to: 1) deepen philanthropic practice; 2) build nonprofit capacity; 3) provide support for professional advisers; and 4) provide platforms for learning about social issues in community. Upcoming trainings and presentations include:

- Thursday, July 21, 2016
[Nonprofit Leadership: Executive Director Learning Circle](#) with Roy Bowen
- Friday, July 29, 2016
[Fundraising: 35 Ways to Maximize Online Fundraising](#) with Allan Pressel
- Thursday, August 18, 2016
[Nonprofit Leadership: Executive Director Learning Circle](#) with Roy Bowen
- Thursday, August 25, 2016
[Nonprofit Finance: Annual Finance Reporting](#)
with Rhonda G. Williams, CPA

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 [David Gaussoin](#) and the NMHEP team can include it an upcoming NMHEP newsletter.

Calendar

DATE	EVENT
July 22, 2016	Small Group Gathering, Care Coalition – Tewa Women United and the NMHEP
July 20, 2016	Health Matters New Mexico, Our Land, Our Health Training
July 21 - 24, 2016	Health Matters New Mexico, Roots & Remedy 5 - Chicago, IL
August 2, 2016	NMHEP Steering Committee Meeting and Networking BBQ
August 2,9,16, & 23, 2016	Health Matters New Mexico, Our Land, Our Health Training
August 3 - 6, 2016	HMNM/CHE Institute for Alt Futures gathering - Baltimore, MD
September 7, 2016	Health Matters New Mexico, Land Use Policy Summit - Policy Advocacy Day
October 23 or 30, 2016	McKinley Community Collaborative for Health Equity Policy Advocacy Day
October 24 or November 4, 2016	Doña Ana Communities United Policy Advocacy Day
TBD	San Miguel County HIA Team Policy Advocacy Day



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For more information, please visit nmhealthequitypartnership.org

Our mailing address is:

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