



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2015

### MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253

Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174

[nmb.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nmb.communications@gmail.com)

### **Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives report from Chinle Nursing Home**

**CHINLE, Ariz.** – The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a report during its regular meeting last Wednesday regarding the Navajoland Nursing Home, Inc. – Chinle Nursing Home, and its proposed construction of a new facility in Chinle.

According to a report provided by NNHI chief executive officer Wayne Claw, CNH is a non-profit entity that serves and cares for nearly 79 elderly patients, who come from 54 chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. Due to the lack of space and resources, many Navajo elderly patients are placed in nursing homes off the reservation, said Claw.

The report states that the proposed construction of a three-story facility with 120 beds would cost approximately \$28 million. NNHI will finalize a grant proposal to the Navajo Housing Authority to obtain Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act funds for the planned project.

“I think it is also incumbent upon the Navajo Nation Council to maybe provide some funding also. I would vouch for about \$30 million from the Council, that is what I’m hoping we can secure on our end,” said HEHSC member Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch’izhi).

Delegate BeGaye also suggested that several proposals be submitted for other grant funding to not only fund the proposed Chinle Nursing Home, but to also begin planning for nursing homes in other agencies on the Navajo Nation. He added that the Council could also consider establishing a trust fund for Navajo elderly needs, such as additional nursing homes and elderly assistance programs.

Claw informed HEHSC members that current conditions of the CNH are below federal safety standards and traces of asbestos and lead were found in the building, which was built in 1969 and officially incorporated in 1971. The building is owned by the Navajo Nation and is managed by CNH staff.

The NNHI has obtained several letters of support from the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation Council, and HEHSC to move the project forward.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) suggested that NNHI prepare a proposal to both NHA for 100% of the funding and to the Navajo Nation Council for 100% of the funding, in case one of the funding entities may not be able to finance the proposed nursing home and would cover any potential funding shortfalls.

“Mr. BeGaye and myself will vouch for this and advocate for the funding. There is no reason our Navajo elders are sitting in a 49-year-old facility with asbestos and other toxic chemicals in the building. These are our grandparents and we need to take care of them, and that means securing the funding at any means necessary,” said Delegate Brown.

HEHSC members voted 4-0 to accept the report.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council