



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives report from Phoenix Indian Center

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received an update report from the Phoenix Indian Center regarding activities and initiatives of the Navajo language and culture program.

The Phoenix Indian Center is a non-profit organization located in Maricopa County, Arizona that assists American Indians living within the urban community with services including employment, educational resources, cultural enrichment, and community engagement services.

Phoenix Indian Center program manager Joylana Begay-Kroupa, provided the quarterly report that covers October to December 2016. The report included information regarding Navajo language and culture classes, seasonal stories and culture nights, case management and intake services, financial emergency assistance, skill building, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

“We appreciate report given by the Phoenix Indian Center today. The center continues to assist our Navajo relatives that reside within the Phoenix metropolitan area. Our Navajo people who live in the metro areas for school and employment need help and guidance from the Nation,” stated HEHSC member Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta).

In July 2016, the Navajo Nation Council approved \$148,000 from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to be allocated to the Phoenix Indian Center to be utilized for the operation of the Navajo-based programs at the center.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Petterson Yazzie (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl’a’a’) asked how the supplemental funding was utilized for the benefit of Navajo people.

“Was the funding only used for Navajo members? How many Navajo members received assistance and participated in the language and culture programs?” asked Delegate Yazzie.

According to Begay-Kroupa, 161 students completed the Navajo language and culture classes, 1,167 people participated in seasonal stories, Navajo culture presentations, and performances, 1,898 families received case management and intake services, five families received financial

emergency assistance, and 91 received skill building and prevention services. Over 90-percent of the participants are Navajo, added Begay-Kroupa.

Phoenix Indian Center chief executive officer Patricia Hibbeler, informed HEHSC members that the supplemental funding was received in November and that the program would request an extension to utilize the funds.

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) stated that the committee would draft a legislation to support the Phoenix Indian Center's fund extension.

The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee accepted the report with a 3-0 vote.

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