



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2018

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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives report from Chinle Comprehensive Health Care

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received an update report from the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility regarding health promotions in their service area.

According to the report provided by health promotion coordinator Cassandra Allen, the health care facility seeks to continue its initiative of implementing meaningful changes within their health, fitness, nutrition, and community education program. A portion of federal grant funding that the facility obtains is utilized toward community health outreach and education.

Allen went on to state that for several years, the health care facility has been utilizing community health councils in their service areas to reach out to chapter communities regarding health issues. The health councils function within the communities and seek to create partnerships with tribal programs and leadership, namely chapters.

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) commended the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility for its health promotion efforts, however, he said he had been informed that the health councils were not being recognized by chapters and their leadership.

“There was an issue with the health councils and I guess it got political. The issue is that the health council went to the chapters and chapter officials said they didn’t recognize them as a health council. The main issue is health, bottom-line, for the community. If chapters do want to do it and don’t know how to go about it, these health councils are a good guidance for them to use,” said Delegate Hale.

Delegate Hale added that the chapters should not feel intimidated by the health councils, rather they should embrace them to aid them in addressing their community health issues. Alcoholism is a critical issue and said this is an opportunity for chapters to utilize these resources to combat it, said Delegate Hale.

Allen said the purpose of the health councils are to hold strategy sessions in which they identify community priorities that include proper solid waste disposal, clean water and conservation initiatives, suicide prevention, violence prevention, alcoholism, drug abuse, and nutrition programs such as cooking healthy meals utilizing commodity foods.

Delegate Hale recommended that the Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility continue to work with chapters in becoming involved with community health initiatives and provide them the education to understand health councils comprehensively.

“In moving forward, I would recommend that you give them a historical background on the health councils and explain to them that they have been around for awhile now. Explain to them about what they can do and how they can empower their own communities through your program as a resource to aid them in achieving their community health goals,” said Delegate Hale.

HEHSC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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