



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Navajo Nation Council recognizes community members and health officials at grand opening of new Kayenta Health Center facility**



**PHOTO: Council Delegates Nathaniel Brown and Nelson S. BeGaye recognize the Kayenta Hospital Steering Committee members during the dedication of the Kayenta Health Center on April 27, 2016.**

**KAYENTA, Ariz.** – On Wednesday, members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council attended the grand opening and dedication ceremony for the newly constructed Kayenta Health Center. The new Indian Health Service center – located two miles east of the town – will provide health care services and promote healing, harmony, and vitality for the growing population of 21,000 residents in Kayenta and surrounding communities.

According to the Navajo Nation Department of Health planner Glenna Manymules, the 186,000 square-foot facility consists of 129 staff quarters, 10 short-stay beds, two surgical units, three birthing units, a wellness center, and fully equipped physical therapy center. The \$150 million dollar facility will provide outpatient surgery, pharmacy, pediatrics, dental, eye clinic, radiology, and community health.

“This new health care facility could not have been possible without the help of local families living near the new hospital. They waived their grazing areas to contribute land to help the people. The hospital steering committee also donated countless hours and sleep to make this dream a reality,” stated Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), who represents the Kayenta community.

The health center will also house NDOH departments such as Behavioral Health, Special Diabetes Project, Public Health Nursing, Health Education, Women, Infants, and Children program, Social Services, Disability Assistance, and Community Health Representatives.

The Kayenta Alternative Rural Hospital Steering Committee, who played a tremendous role in securing the new facility, is comprised of several members including Helena Bonnaha, Alyce Mae Yazzie, Malcolm Benally, Lillian Smith, Elwood Gene, Elwood Saganey, Marcella Black, Bryce Anderson, Gabriel Yazzie, Charles Atcitty, and Chris Burnside.

The families of Helen Watchman, Greta Luna, Phil Singer Sr., and Sam Sullivan Jr., were recognized by members of the Council during Wednesday’s ceremony for giving their consent to use land within their grazing areas to build the new health care center.

Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa’tsis’Áán, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) also highlighted the opportunities the health care center will provide for the surrounding communities.

“This is extremely great for the community. Kayenta is a growing community and the new hospital will promote economic development. Most importantly, the people will have access to high quality health care services,” stated Delegate Daniels.

The Kayenta Service Unit Chief Executive Officer and former Navajo Nation Vice President Frank Dayish, Jr. expressed his appreciation for the team effort of the community to build a new health care facility to address health needs and issues of the community.

“The new center is designed to support each patient. Our patients will have access to administrative, clinical, nursing, public health, and quality management services. Also, they will have access to NDOH services. The partnership between IHS and NDOH will promote productivity, collaboration, and create a rewarding work environment for employees,” stated Dayish.

Officials with the Kayenta Health Center expect the new facility to be in full operation by summer.

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