



THE NAVAJO NATION



Executive Branch Quarterly Report

OCT 2023



*Tune in Thursdays at 1PM to your local
Navajo radio station to hear weekly updates
given in Navajo by President Buu Nygren.*



Office of the Navajo Nation President and Vice President

Physical Address

100 Parkway

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Plus Code

MXJ2+44 Window Rock, Arizona

Mailing Address

PO Box 7440

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Phone Number

(928) 871-7000

Fax Number

(928) 871-4025

Website

opvp.navajo-nsn.gov

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DR. BUU NYGREN *PRESIDENT*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ya'at'ééh shidine'é,

I am honored to present to you the progress made by the Nygren Administration in our ongoing efforts to serve and uplift the Navajo Nation. This report is an update to the significant milestones achieved in our first 9 months in office and the fourth quarter.

This report is a summary of just some of the actions that have propelled us forward and sheds light on our vision for the future. One of our primary objectives is to foster a strong partnership with the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

We continue to meet one-on-one with Council Delegates and their chapter officials. We've engaged in meaningful discussions about priorities and the communities we represent. This collaborative approach has allowed us to forge valuable partnerships across governments and private entities that directly benefit the Navajo people.

Your involvement in your local community is crucial. It enables us as a team to find effective solutions and inspire positive change. We value your input and encourage you to join us in shaping a brighter future for each community across the Navajo Nation.

Development of more efficient processes has been a key priority, with growth and expansion opportunities emerging from the review of program leadership's priorities. This also extends to our small business development programs and our entrepreneurs that receive invaluable support and guidance—this has been a key focus of our platform.

Looking ahead to the next three months, we are confident that the Executive Branch will build upon the foundation of progress we set out to lay during our first year. Our continual focus is to improve the quality of services offered by the Navajo Nation and the efficiency with which these services are delivered.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support.

Ahéhee',

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. V. Nygren", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Buu Nygren





RICHELLE MONTOYA *VICE PRESIDENT*



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yá'at'ééh shik'éei,

Over the past quarter, emphasis on open communication and collaboration has allowed us to address a variety of needs from programs and constituents. This has often been neglected in the past.

Our approach from day one has been to support the positive growth of our local chapter capacities for governing and to facilitate the safe reopening of our government for accessible services.

We believe that promoting positive civic engagement of our Navajo people is essential for the overall progress of our Nation. It is through openness and inclusive dialogue that we can foster an environment where meaningful discussions can take place. That's what leads to effective solutions.

I stand with President Nygren with great enthusiasm as we strive to build a solid foundation from which our future generations can learn, grow, and eventually lead. The future of the Navajo people relies on the positive changes we bring about in our policies, best practices, and day-to-day interactions with those we serve.

The Office of the President and Vice President sees every Navajo Nation employee as valued team members. We continue to embrace this approach based on our four core values: Compassion, Competency, Teamwork, and Commitment.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your support, dedication, and contributions to the betterment of our Nation. We will continue positive change towards a brighter future for our Navajo people.

Hozhó nahoodleet,

Richelle Montoya

Vice President Montoya

Executive Offices

Office of the President & Vice President

KEY PROJECTS

Internal Processes: Tackling the 164(B) review process

The often-faulted 164(B) executive review process has been frequently identified by divisions, chapters, and partners of the Navajo Nation as a bottleneck in moving projects along. This process was the focus of internal streamlining within the Office of the President and Vice President over the first six months of the Nygren Administration.

This has resulted in a first-of-its-kind OPVP 164-document tracker that organizes the many types of documents that enter and leave the office.

Since January, we have completed nearly 1,000 164-review “packets” — comprising all of the documents needed to make informed leadership decisions — that have entered the Office of the President and Vice President.

These documents typically include:

- Time-sensitive contracts for projects and services
- Enrollment and vital records requests for tribal members
- Proposed policy revisions and drafts of

new laws put forward by the Executive Branch

- Inter-governmental agreements
- Executive orders

By the end of each week, the administration has worked hard to ensure that not only are these critical documents properly reviewed, but that they are signed and handed back to the point of contact for each document.

The days of important documents piling on the President’s desk are over. We’re here to move constantly improve processing times.

Working with the Council: Resolutions signed into Law

The Nygren Administration has created an open dialogue with Speaker Crystalayne Curley and the 25th Navajo Nation Council as part of a commitment to work with the Council. In the first nine months, the Council and its committees were re-established and delegates began to carry out their function as legislators.

Overall, the Council sent the Office of the President and Vice President 59 resolutions that require Presidential enactment. Of those, all were signed into law with only one line-item veto issued and one veto issued on an issue that had expired (Vetoed resolution related to H.R. 2811 position statement. Congressional House vote concluded).

This degree of collaboration with the Council means the time is now for bold, unified policy changes and appropriations that support the vision of our local communities and Navajo people everywhere.

Since the first day of the Nygren Administration,

the spirit of collaboration and teamwork has driven different approaches to legislation and policy development. This is the way the Executive Branch supports the Council and the committees in their deliberations. This is an evolving relationship that the Nygren Administration values as the key to addressing the biggest issues facing the Navajo Nation.

In the first 200 days of our terms in office, the foundation was laid for productive months and years ahead. We thank the members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for their leadership both in the Council Chamber and among the Navajo people.

MMIP/MMDR Support

Since the beginning of this administration, the Office of the President and Vice President met with and aided 10 families that have been affected by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis. These are Navajo families that have a loved one who is either missing or has been murdered. These families continue to search for support or justice.

The assistance offered by the Office of the President and Vice President has, at times, been simply opening lines of communication with law enforcement to allow for families to receive updates on their loved ones' cases. This takes place if information shared does not compromise an ongoing investigation which, up until now, has been a difficult and sometimes frustrating task.

In one case, OPVP has aided to prompt law enforcement to get a search operation coordinated and completed, as well as helped in locating one 19-year-old female who was missing for two weeks. Most times, OPVP's dedicated MMIW/MMIP liaison helps families navigate the process among the Navajo Nation Police

Department and the Navajo Nation Criminal Investigation Department for a missing persons search operation.

In most cases, a search for a missing person becomes a criminal case, which then becomes a search to locate a suspect on top of the missing person.

The Nygren Administration continues in both a coordinating role and a leadership role when it comes to missing and murdered relatives. As we look towards creating a more effective and empathetic approach to handling responses from our office, we have brought in resources that are trusted and dedicated to the specific cause of MMIP/MMDR.

We look forward to the ongoing steps towards progress the Office of the President and Vice President will make in the new quarter.

A Weekly Call To Action: Sharing Missing Persons Reports Across the Navajo Nation

The Nygren Administration has been steadfast in its approach to sharing information on new missing persons reports in every weekly radio address to all parts of the Navajo Nation and beyond.

Over the summer, we met with the family of Laverda Sorrell who has been missing since July 2002. We met following the proclamation signing for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

We remain committed to building a comprehensive response to the issue of MMIW, MMIP, and MMDR (Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives) here on the Nation by listening, by

advocating, and by responding to the needs of families that need access to our public safety and social services programs.

The Office of the President and Vice President has announced over the radio missing persons reports that are shared by the Navajo Police Department:

- Maliyah Velasco, 17, Tuba City
- Chavis Crosby, 33, Chinle
- Janelle Latoya Begay, 38, Crownpoint - LOCATED
- Tanishawn Lee, 13, Shiprock - LOCATED
- Montre Billy Reed, 29, Phoenix
- Hailey Parrish, 15, Tuba City
- Ernest Charley, 51, Smith Lake - LOCATED
- Wilhelmina Whitewater, 50, Tsaile
- Lionel Lee Goldtooth, 56, Tuba City - LOCATED
- Kerry Kerley, 55, Cameron
- Stanley F. Yazzie, 59, Gallup
- Joseph Leo Tsosie, 27, Inglewood
- Remus Yazzie, 31, Farmington
- Jayden Laine Yazzie, 13, Jeddito - LOCATED
- Arnold Yazzie, 31, Dilkon
- Johnny Chavez, Jr., 46, Albuquerque
- Madison Billy, 12, Dilkon - LOCATED

The Nygren Administration is looking ahead to a future when our people can immediately access needed resources with responsive guidance from our programs as soon as a missing person is reported to the Navajo Police Department. That requires an intense level of coordination and leadership—all components we have tasked our team with improving.

ARPA Projects Progress

Since taking office 200 days ago, the administration has focused the Executive Branch divisions and departments on drawing down all of the \$2.1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funding received by the Navajo Nation. This funding has enabled projects to be built at a scale never before achieved by the Nation.

Through teamwork, the Nygren Administration has:

- Established 184 new business units for projects for a total of 241 (compared to 57 existing BUs on January 10)
- Budget units totaling \$630 million in base allocations
- Expended \$141 million to-date, and
- Encumbered \$191 million (Compared to \$36 million on January 10).

We have consistently communicated to both the Council and the Navajo people that our priority with this unprecedented funding is to facilitate the construction of homes, enhance access to water and power, connect our students to a world of knowledge, and provide our business community with broadband connectivity.

Our unwavering focus is on removing the barriers obstructing infrastructure development, which stands as our most crucial objective under the American Rescue Plan Act. It is the collective responsibility of all individuals in leadership positions to help us accomplish this. We have confidence that we will succeed in achieving this singular goal.

Uranium Legacy Awareness

Our administration took action in July through Executive Order No. 04-2023 to draw attention

to the urgent need for abandoned uranium mine cleanup. Since the beginning of this term, the Nygren Administration, along with Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Executive Director Stephen B. Etsitty, have engaged with advocates for uranium mine cleanup.

The US EPA reports that there are more than 500 abandoned uranium mines across the Nation, with our own Navajo Nation EPA acknowledging even more exist that are not currently identified.

The 1979 Church Rock Uranium Spill, one of the worst uranium disasters anywhere across the globe, suffers from a lack of national media attention and urgency to act to clean-up environmental contamination. In the same year as the Church Rock spill, the Three Mile Island uranium disaster occurred on the East Coast. It received significant media attention. Even today, documentaries on Netflix cover events like Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and the 2011 Fukushima meltdown, while the Navajo Nation continues to lack national media attention and action for this major environmental disaster.

To set-off awareness around this issue, the administration selected Jonathan Perry as a special advisor on the issue. Perry has volunteered his time and his long-standing leadership to this cause. We are committed to resolving uranium-related problems and we actively collaborate with relevant departments to find solutions.

The health issues caused by uranium mining persist, and the impact of the leftover materials on community members remains adverse.

Diné Action Plan (DAP)

The Diné Action Plan, formerly called the Tribal Action Plan, is the long-running planning document that lays out the Navajo Nation

government's answer to reducing violence, preventing substance use disorders, eliminating suicide, and to combat the epidemic of missing/murdered Diné relatives.

The plan follows the Diné Planning Model as the framework for managing the planning process itself and for establishing management principles of the plan among several Navajo Nation programs. Four cultural ideas set up the process as continuous sequences that are carried out from the case management phase all the way to the overarching policy decisions made by Navajo leadership. These cultural principles, in order, are: Nitsáhákees (thinking and understanding), Nahat'á (planning), liná (life and implementation), and Síhásin (measuring and evaluating). Changes to resource allocations, legal authority, outreach, and nearly all other aspects of plan implementation can be incorporated continuously.

The Nygren Administration made the executive director of the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services the lead for advancing the plan's goals and objectives. Director Thomas Cody facilitates the Diné Action Plan Advisory Group, which comprises 17 members across a broad cross-section of subjects.

Housing Summit: Taking a Closer Look at 1,000 Homes

It was, and continues to be, a bold statement for Navajo leadership to make: Let's build a thousand homes across the Navajo Nation.

When we Think for the Future, we undertake a process of creative thinking and thorough discussion on big ideas. We discover how to work together and how different experiences can drive new solutions.

In the first nine months of the Nygren Administration, the first-ever Navajo Nation Housing Fair hosted and organized by the Office of the President and Vice President was accomplished. In a special partnership with the Navajo Housing Authority, the housing fair was a success for all the powerful insights that were shared and collected from participants.

Some of the preliminary insights include:

- When asked if they had utilities, like water and electricity, 60 percent of housing fair attendees who responded said 'Yes' and 34 percent said 'No.'
- When asked how many family members lived in the housing fair attendee's household, 5 percent said 1 person, 26 percent said 2 people, 20 percent said 3 people, 18 percent said 4 people, 16 percent said 5 people, and 16 percent said 6 to 13 people.
- Of those surveyed, 60 percent had an approved homesite or residential lease and 36 percent said they had not yet obtained one.
- 10 percent of survey respondents indicated they were not in need of a home or renovation.

38 percent of survey respondents said their source of income was employment, 19 percent said retirement, 11 percent said social security, 8 percent indicated no source of income, 4 percent said supplemental security income (SSI), 3 percent indicated self-employment, 2 percent said disability, 2 percent said unemployment insurance, and less than 1 percent each said Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), school/student, and veteran/service connected.

With more than 1,500 registered attendees across 2 days, the housing fair's success comprises 20

programs, enterprises, non-profits, and other partners working in collaboration and teamwork with the Nygren Administration to inform the public, educate potential homeowners, and assess housing development on the Navajo Nation.

We need greater partnership now more than ever. The Office of the President and Vice President will continue to define the specific measureables for the housing initiative. With a new trust fund approved by the Navajo Nation Council during the 2024 Comprehensive Budget deliberations, we are now positioning ourselves as a Nation to pursue serious housing development for our most needy.

Thank you for your support.

Education: Pushing a Journey Towards Learning with Thousands of Students, Celebrating Achievements

Navajo students across the nation's primary, middle, and high schools were challenged to carry on their education through remote learning and then to again readjust as the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic came to an end. It required a level of effort by students that the Nygren Administration commended them for through visits and discussions at dozens of schools.

When it came to the message shared with thousands of students and graduates, the Nygren Administration aimed to honor and motivate each individual to carry their learning forward. The message reflects the foundation of prioritizing student mental wellness, reducing school absences, accommodating different learning modalities and building a strong sense of pride in being Diné.

We have been to more than 24 schools to be with our Diné students, including:

- Window Rock Head Start
- Bread Springs Day School
- Chinle High School
- Ch'ooshgai Community School
- Diné College
- Dream Diné Charter School
- Ganado High School
- Jefferson Elementary School
- Kirtland Middle School
- Lukachukai Community School
- Many Farms High School
- Middle College High School
- Monument Valley High School
- Navajo Pine High School
- Navajo Preparatory School
- Northern Arizona University
- Page High School
- Pinon High School
- Shonto Preparatory School
- St. Michaels High School
- Stanford University
- Thoreau High School
- Tohatchi High School
- Tuba City High School
- Valley-Sanders High School
- And so many more.

Just like each student in a class, every school had something special to offer. Whether it is the opportunity given to students to ask questions directly to their president or the recognition of parents and faculty in supporting each other, we are seeing success in building a bridge that brings us closer together.

The number of Navajo students we have encouraged and engaged with is in the thousands. But it wasn't just students that we wanted to support. We have emphasized the important work that their families, relatives, communities, and school staff, including bus drivers, and many others have done to support their academic success.

The Nygren Administration's long-term student achievement goals require consistent support from leadership. As a nation, the education our Navajo people undertake is an investment we must always protect and always improve. We look ahead to the academic year with excitement and energy for all the knowledge our Navajo learners will earn.

Business Site Lease Rent Relief: A Path to Recovery and Growth for Navajo Businesses

In a bid to address the economic challenges faced by businesses on the Navajo Nation during the pandemic, the Nygren Administration has taken a proactive step toward providing relief. Recognizing the ongoing hardships faced by many entrepreneurs, the Division of Economic Development has been tasked with offering crucial assistance aimed at stimulating small business reinvestment. Under this initiative, business site lease lessees experiencing financial difficulties can request up to 36 months of rent relief after enduring forced business closures across the Navajo Nation.

The process to access this relief is relatively straightforward. For lessees with a Navajo Nation lease managed by the division, it is essential to reach out to individual Development Specialists for leases in good standing. Alternatively, lessees with leases in default should contact the Real Estate Department to initiate the rent relief

process. These departments will guide applicants through the necessary steps to ensure a smooth and efficient experience.

When meeting with DED, it is crucial for business owners to come prepared with evidence that illustrates the adverse impacts they have endured. By demonstrating the extent of their hardship, entrepreneurs show how rent relief will play a pivotal role in their recovery and future growth. This opportunity is a lifeline, empowering businesses to not only bounce back from the pandemic but also expand their operations, thereby contributing to the overall prosperity of the Navajo Nation.

The Nygren Administration's commitment to the revitalization and growth of Navajo businesses stands strong. By extending a helping hand to entrepreneurs, we aim to foster a stronger, more resilient community as we collectively emerge from the shadows of the pandemic.

This initiative not only seeks to alleviate financial burdens but also aims to create more job opportunities for the Navajo people. By supporting local businesses, the administration believes in its entrepreneurs.

As the Navajo Nation moves forward, it is imperative for entrepreneurs to seize this opportunity and engage with DED to secure the assistance they need. By taking advantage of the rent relief program, businesses can not only rebuild but also contribute to the overall economic recovery of the Navajo Nation.

The Nygren Administration invites Navajo business owners to join in this effort to emerge stronger, more prosperous, and resilient.

Streamlining Government

The Nygren Administration has explored both new technologies and improved program policies and procedures. Though it may take time to implement truly digital processes, our main goal continues to be excellent customer service driven by a strong desire to provide solutions for our Navajo people.

With an emphasis on reducing paperwork, the Division of Social Services transitioned to electronic payment management systems that connect to payment processors in the Office of the Controller.

Streamlined procurement rules were added to the Office of the Controller's internal procedures that simplify small purchases and payments for services—a huge win for procuring essential, time-sensitive purchases, like HVAC repairs.

Every Navajo Nation employee now has access to an extensive suite of Microsoft productivity programs through nationwide investments in cybersecurity. We also continue to identify and evaluate alternative cloud-based solutions that improve efficiency and productivity.

Opportunities exist across every Executive Branch program to adopt internal improvements to their work processes that leverage digital tools. In future investments in streamlining government, the Executive Branch will focus its public-facing digital properties towards greater accessibility and self-service portals that save time and deliver results.

A digital future doesn't mean people will be left behind—not our nation's employees, not our most rural of communities, not even our precious elders. The Nygren Administration's approach to streamlining emphasizes the improved

availability of helpful staff in Navajo Nation programs who are not overburdened due to lack of manpower. That's a commitment we make to the Navajo people.

Cross-commissioning strategy: Public Safety moves to update agreements

Of the Nygren Administration's key platform areas, the issue of public safety in Navajo communities, especially the presence and responsiveness of police and emergency services, has been a major focus of review and program leadership restructuring. Through this process, the Division of Public Safety has identified more than 40 cross-commissioning agreements with the public safety agencies across the Southwest.

Cross-commissioning agreements ultimately outline how these other agencies can provide police and public safety responses to places that are not easily accessible by Navajo police resources. With more than 40 such agreements, each with their own negotiated clauses and provisions that lead to complexity, they sometimes cause burdensome administrative interpretations that limit their effectiveness.

Under the Nygren Administration's leadership, both the Division of Public Safety and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice have identified an opportunity to streamline these agreements in the future under a common structure. Already, two cross-commissioning agreements in Page and in Utah reflect a more uniform process to approve updates to these important partnerships.

Ultimately, these agreements can help fill the gap to respond to emergency 911 calls. While these are not intended to be long-term solutions, cross commissioning agreements can give limited

Navajo police resources time to recruit, train, and deploy new officers and new equipment.

Navajo Nation Washington Office

PROJECTS

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments

The Navajo Nation Washington Office, in collaboration with victims of the federal government's uranium mining activities for national defense, conducted educational events to educate the members of Congress on the impacts federal uranium mining has had on them and to voice support of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments of 2023 (S. 1751). The original RECA program was extended from July 2022 to July 2024.

The extension itself will allow for the continuation of claims for those eligible under the current program. However, for many communities, including communities within the Navajo Nation, the current RECA program has flaws and does not recognize new scientific data which justifies extending eligibility to many others who have been affected by the government's uranium mining activities. We are seeking support from members of Congress to pass S. 1751 to strengthen RECA and aid those who have suffered from the devastating health impacts of nuclear radiation that are not eligible under the current program. From July 24th through the 28th, the Navajo Nation Washington Office led a group of 5 Navajo Uranium Miners and downwinders through

congressional meetings to provide their testimony about working in the mines and the health consequences they have suffered.

Executed Activities: • 21 meetings with key Congressional targets. These include members in impacted states (Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah, North and South Dakota), strategic Republican targets, and members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

• Media/Press activities, including: o Sending a media alert to a list of priority media targets (both local and national) that cover Indigenous issues, uranium mining/toxic exposures, Congressional affairs, and nuclear issues. o Pitching reporters and offering one-on-one interviews with the miners, Navajo Nation elected officials, and RECA Amendment bill sponsors. o Hosted a press conference with news organizations, such as the New York Times, Cronkite News, and ABC News. Panelists included: Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez, Phil Harrison, Austin Tsosie, Jon Samet, and Justin Ahasteen. Achievements: Success will be measured based on the following outcomes: • Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) successfully included an amendment within the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to include the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 2023 within the NDAA. The NDAA is currently going through negotiations within a bipartisan and bicameral conference committee to produce a final version of the NDAA. Once completed, the NDAA will need to pass the House and Senate. It is not certain whether the RECA amendments will be included.

• Completed an article in the NNWO newsletter and posted to the NNWO website and social media platforms to inform members of the results of our impact week.

• Secured some media coverage (local and national) from ABC, Time magazine, and AZCentral.

Navajo Nation Fair

A key goal for the Navajo Nation Washington Office is transparency about the Office, the work that we do, and how we uphold the treaty of 1868 in Washington DC. To help us reach that goal we brought the Navajo Nation Washington Office back to the Window Rock to talk with our Diné about the work that we are doing and the work we are advancing. Staff members were able to collect constituent concerns to help us understand at the grassroots level what our people need. In these efforts, we were able to learn about different issues the Navajo people are facing such as road flooding in Fort Defiance Navajo Agency that has impeded the livelihoods of constituents. Overall, the Navajo Nation Washington Office staff were able to reconnect with the homeland and the people from across the Navajo Nation. Staff were able to interact with Navajo Nation Division and Department leaders and community members to collect concerns, issues, and feedback that will guide us in our work and strengthen our advocacy in Washington, DC. Executed Activities - Booth set-up located in an identifiable location for constituents to easily access. - Serving as a liaison for the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President - Assisting in the set-up of the Navajo Nation Presidents tent. - Provided promotional items to the Navajo Nation people and to Departmental staff. Achievements - Collected over 500 emails to add to our email listserv to receive communications from our office, including our press releases and Wááshindoon Weekly. - Collected approximately 50 constituent requests regarding concerns they are facing in the community; the Office is in the process of reviewing and coordinating appropriate responses. - Navajo Nation Fair recognition for

our sponsorship and work in Washington, DC. - Renewed our presence and work in Washington, DC with the Navajo people to restore faith and understanding of our Office.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Testimony by the Honorable Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation, before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding S. 1898 - Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023.

The Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren requested the support of U.S. Senator for more funding, and time, for a pipeline project that would create a reliable water supply for 250,000 people across the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Nation.

President Nygren testified in support of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023, which would amend a 2009 bill that created the framework and identified the funding for the water project.

Assistant Interior Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland cautioned the Senate Indian Affairs Committee that without the extension and increased funding the project will not stop.

Testimony by the Honorable Dr. Buu V. Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation, before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

regarding the Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4374 "Energy Opportunities for All Act."

Navajo Nation President, Dr. Buu Nygren, testified before congress to express dismay in the Department of Interiors Secretarial Order 7923, establishing a 20-year moratorium on drilling and mining encompassing 336,404 acres surrounding Chaco Canyon. Informing congress that this tramples on tribal sovereignty and denies Navajo's badly needed royalty payments,

President Nygren testified on the importance of meaningful consultation, and that there was not meaningful consultation conducted by the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management. As a result, there was no consideration for those most impacted, the Navajo people located within the 10-mile buffer zone who could lose royalty payments they rely on.

Testimony by the Honorable Dr. Buu V. Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation, before the Joint Economic Committee Regarding "The Economic Impacts of Diabetes."

President Nygren provided testimony before the Joint Economic Committee to inform members that the Navajo Nation faces challenges due to its size, population, and high rates of preventable nutrition-related diseases; relying heavily on the services provided under the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).

Despite limited funding, SDPI has made significant progress to reduce diabetes and improve prevention resources. For example, the Navajo Nation has been able to lead community-

based approaches and partnerships to educate communities about upstream causes of diabetes, especially obesity, and highlight nutrition programs.

By having Tribes lead their own health programs with community members promotes tribal sovereignty and self-determination. President Nygren requested for SDPI reauthorization with increased funding to continue its impactful work.

Testimony by the Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the Navajo Nation, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding “Water as a Trust Resource: Examining Access in Native Communities” Oversight Hearing

Crystalyne Curley, Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, testified about the longstanding challenges of water access and its significance as a trust resource for the Navajo Nation; highlighting that approximately 30% of Navajo Nation homes lack running water, which was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee had previously funded the Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency Program, but the funds were still pending deployment. The Navajo Government is working to streamline environmental clearance processes for water and sewer line construction.

The lack of water access not only affects domestic supply but also hinders economic development, including farming, industrial growth, and municipal expansion.

Speaker Curley emphasized the need for federal programs to support water access for economic development and called for legislation to approve and implement negotiated water rights settlements to secure a more reliable water supply and infrastructure projects.

Speaker Curley expressed support for bills like S. 2385 and H.R. 4746, which address the operation and maintenance of IHS facilities to prevent future crises. Speaker Curley called for collaboration between Navajo Nation Leadership, the Committee, Congress, and the Administration to address the pressing issue of clean drinking water access, ensuring a better future for the Navajo people.

Testimony by the Honorable Bidtah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel to the Navajo Nation President, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs will hold an oversight budget hearing titled “Tribal Autonomy and Energy Development: Oversight of the Implementation of the Indian Tribal Energy Development & Self-Determination Act.”

Bidtah Becker, Chief Legal Counsel to Navajo Nation President and Vice-President, spoke about the historical significance of energy development for the Navajo Nation, with the Navajo Nation Council initially created to approve oil and gas leases.

Becker mentioned the closure of the Navajo Generating Station and coal mine in 2019, resulting in the loss of 1,000 direct jobs, 3,000 indirect jobs, and significant revenue for both the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. Emphasizing

the need for Navajo Nation ownership in energy development to have a say in decisions affecting Navajo livelihoods.

She discussed the Indian Tribal Energy Development & Self-Determination Act, which allows Native Nations to issue mineral leases but does not address the data and services provided by the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Becker highlighted the importance of data access for effective leasing decisions and compliance.

She expressed interest in expanding technical assistance beyond DOI to include the Department of Energy (DOE) due to the Navajo Nation's unique energy market needs.

Becker suggested granting federal departments and agencies discretion to work with Native Nations to meet their specific needs.

The Subcommittee Chair, Harriet Hageman, concluded the hearing by welcoming Native Nations to further discuss and enact tribal self-governance over their tribal lands.

Navajo Nation Veterans Administration

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

- Sponsorship for legislation related to the Western Agency over expenditure
- All team members of the Veterans

Administration are current on their Employee Performance Appraisal Forms.

- Developed training curriculum for Veterans Administration team members.

August

- First Contract completed for ARPA funding with Southwest Indian Foundation
- Construction had begun on a Veteran home in Northern Agency
- Code Talker Day was a success
- Located about 10 boxes of unaccounted Veterans Housing Applications

September

- Construction had begun on a Veterans home in Fort Defiance Agency
- Veterans Service Officers have processed over 100 Veterans Administration disability claims for a backpay of about \$150,000.00
- Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive budget passed
- State and Federal partners assisted at the Navajo Nation Fair with over 80 claims

PROJECTS

- Continuing to address the housing needs of our Veterans through the Veterans Housing Program.
- Seeking land on the Navajo Nation to designate as a State or National Veterans Cemetery.
- Bringing more health care providers to the Navajo Nation by means of mobile Vet Clinics, Mental Health Care professionals and Health Screenings for our Veterans.

- Seeking grants to revitalized and improve 3 agency offices.

Office of Miss Navajo Nation

PROJECTS

Miss Navajo Nation Apartment Renovation Project

Project Contact: Adam Moses, carlettabenally@navajo-nsn.gov

On September 1, 2023, Navajo Nation Employee Housing initiated renovation project on Miss Navajo Nation assigned apartment. They've replaced bathroom sink, counter, lighting fixtures, toilet, shower fixtures, and shower tiles, but not the shower tub. They have replaced water pipes for bathroom and water heater. They have drained water heater. They have installed new security motion sensor lighting in back yard.

Expected Outcome: To move-in the reigning Miss Navajo Nation into a more livable quarter with new home furnishing.

Navajo Nation Employee Housing will not be able to renovate the kitchen section of the apartment.

Office of Miss Navajo Nation's Website

Project Contact: Carletta Benally, carlettabenally@navajo-nsn.gov

OMNN is working with the Department of

Information Technology in updating or re-designing Miss Navajo Nation's website, which will feature the reigning Miss Navajo Nation 2023-2024, Amy N. Begaye's video introductory in English and Navajo languages. We are including pageant pictures, updated pageant sponsors' decals/logos, and new QR Code.

Expected Outcome: to have our target audience review OMNN's website and continue to promote our pageant sponsors by featuring their decals/logos on OMNN's website.

We have projected timeline go live on Friday, October 20, 2023.

Meet & Greet Miss Navajo Nation

Project Contact: Carletta Benally, carlettabenally@navajo-nsn.gov

Preparing for Western Navajo Fair & Parade. We'll hosting meet and greet Miss Navajo Nation, Amy N. Begaye. We're organizing activities for youth and elders during the meet and greet event.

Expected Outcome: for our Dine people to meet and visit with new reigning Miss Navajo Nation 2023-2024, Amy N. Begaye.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Miss Navajo Nation Financial Literacy event

Accomplishment Date: 6-Jul-23

OMNN and Miss Navajo Nation successfully hosted the first ever Financial Literacy designed for adults and youth involvement. We had

62 individuals in-person attendance, and 50 individuals attend via zoom.

Topics covered included Budgeting, Value of Savings, Dealing with Debt, Introduction to Investments, Savings for Kids, and Smart with Money Activities.

We began soliciting of potential presenters and moderators at the Navajo Nation Economic Summit. We wrote correspondences as a follow-up to our networking efforts.

The overall goal was to encourage our Dine families to begin learning the value of savings, differentiate generational wealth growth, and dealing with debt and retirement.

Miss Navajo Nation Contestant Introduction Video Film

Accomplishment Date: 24-Aug-23

Navajo Nation TV & Film and Office of Miss Navajo Nation created, shared, and produced a beautiful and meaningful video to Introduced the 71st Annual Miss Navajo Nation Pageant Contestants.

- Contestant #1 Amy Begaye
- Contestant #2 Myleka John

We filmed each contestant at several different locations and each contestant shared her personal journey and values in deciding to compete for the title of Miss Navajo Nation. Ahxe'ehe Nistaago Navajo Nation TV and Film Productions, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund, Navajo Nation Library, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, and Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise for this video production highlighting our contestants.

Overall goal was changing the mindset of Dine negativity. OMNN was determined to silence the "only 2 contestants" comments. It was important for our office to address this matter head-on and defend our efforts. These types of negativities regarding our recruited most importantly eligible contestants are so unwarranted.

Accomplishment: Changing the narratives by focusing on introducing our Brave, Intelligent Navajo Daughters to the world as 71st Annual Miss Navajo Nation Pageant Contestants.

71st Annual Miss Navajo Nation Pageant

Accomplishment Date: 9-Sep-23

The Office of Miss Navajo Nation ("OMNN") and 2023 Pageant Committee Members coordinated, planned and hosted 71st Annual Miss Navajo Nation Pageant to select a new Miss Navajo Nation aka Goodwill Ambassador. The OMNN and Committee Members produced a safe environment and memorable hybrid pageant for the 2023 Miss Navajo Nation Contestants and all attendees.

OMNN began recruiting for financial sponsorship and Pageant Committee Members (PCM) in February 2023. OMNN and PCM held bi-weekly meetings to refine our goals and objectives and brainstorming efforts.

Accomplishment: On September 9, 2023, Miss Amy Naazbah Begaye of Kayenta, Arizona won the title of Miss Navajo Nation 2023-2024.

GOALS

Miss Navajo Nation Apartment Renovation

Complete all renovation project by replacing all fixtures & furniture, build a fence to create front yard while safeguarding Miss Navajo Nation of unwanted or unwelcome intruders/visitors.

Goal Target Date: 11/30/23

Toys for Tots

Collaborate with all organizations with toys collection. Distribute to children across the Navajo Nation by December 24, 2023.

Goal Target Date: 24-Dec-23

Miss Navajo Nation Winter Stem event

The reigning Miss Navajo Nation is organizing a Winter Stem event for Kayenta Unified School District. We just began the conservation, so not much details or notes.

Goal Target Date: 30-Dec-23

Office of the Navajo Public Defender

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

- Closed out a number of cases that were completed during the 2nd and 3rd quarters.

August

- Filled two vacant Legal Secretary positions: one (1) for Crownpoint office and one (1) for Window Rock office.
- Staff presented to Budget & Finance Committee regarding FY 2024 Budgets.

September

- Attended Job Fair at Dine College; provided information on vacant legal occupations, attorneys, and advocates, to college students, and community members.
- Participated with managers/supervisors in discussion regarding planning for Criminal Justice summit.
- Old case files from 2018 and prior have been shredded.

PROJECTS

- Digitizing client records to be completed by 2nd quarter.

Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office

PROJECTS

Mapping the Navajo Nation, certify

the Navajo Nation, Mapping with FCC

Project Contact: Tico Charlee, tico.charlee@navajo-nsn.gov

Map out relevant stakeholders within the state and identify the information they need to secure full participation in the program, include subgrantees, local governments, communities' groups and others that may play a role in delivering on the promise of BEAD.

NM Digital Equity Inclusion & Accessibility Working Group Meeting with NM Digital Equity Inclusion & Accessibility Working Group over, the importance of digital accessibility, and developing our understanding of access as it relates to adoption and potential for transformation on the individual and community level, to understand the barriers to adoption in unserved, underserved, and underrepresented communities. Middle Mile and Last Mile FIBER meeting with NM STATE, AZ STATE and Utah,

Duplications of Federal FundsThe Federal Funding associated with all states are the Connect America Fund phase II (CAF) The other is Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). The Mapping and comprehensive of the stakeholder can be quit demanding, such confidentiality.

Last Meeting in September, the FCC Complemented the Navajo Nation in front of the NM State Governors Broadband grp, that the Navajo Nation had the best Mapping.

Broadband Feasibility Study

Project Contact: Tico Charlee, tico.charlee@navajo-nsn.gov

To ensure that a network buildout can be

supported and above all, is sustainable. Also identify and assess any existing infrastructure. If any facilities (Copper, fiber, wireless) exist and provide services to the community, do they meet the required bandwidth necessary, (100/20), In addition identify existing and needed ROW for Infrastructure deployments.

The Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA) makes clear- and the pandemic has confirmed that access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is critically important for individuals, families, and communities to be able to work, learn and access vital service.

ARPF Funds

Project Contact: Tico Charlee, tico.charlee@navajo-nsn.gov

The Broadband Office awarded:

Smith Bagel 21,593,030 (SBI) will upgrade, their electronics to 4G/5G, Broadband service will increase to 26,554 individuals and 10,752 Homes.

Sacred Wind Communication \$9,928,486.00, (SWC) will upgrade their Fixed Wireless to the Unserved/underserve area's also do Fiber Build out of 47.7 miles of fiber to the homes Totaling 181 homes.

OSO Internet Solution, INC: in Ramah \$5,880.024.95 will construct 13.2 miles of middle mile fiber for 600 homes in the Ramah Community

Stakeholder input and market observances continue to demonstrate critical gaps with regard to middle-mile, SG mobile broadband coverage, network resiliency and security.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Affordability Connectivity Program (ACP)

Accomplishment Date: 2024

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) subsidy for Internet service, which is available to low-income households and recipients of many types of federal aid. The program pays a \$30 monthly subsidy per household, \$75 per Tribal household. By comparison, as of November 1, 2022, the FCC reports that only 142,156 New Mexico households (31 percent of the eligible base) are receiving the subsidy for Internet services.

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.

Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program.

Participates in one of these assistance programs:

Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools.

SNAP

Medicaid

Your Medicaid eligibility may be up for renewal. Learn more about how to renew.

Federal Housing Assistance, including:

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8 Vouchers)

Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)/Section 202/ Section 811

Public Housing

Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

WIC

Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits

or Lifeline;

Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on qualifying Tribal lands:

Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance

Tribal TANF

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Tribal Head Start (income based)

Digital Equity

Accomplishment Date: 2024

The existing data reflect that Navajo Nation is

largely on pace with neighboring states and the nation when it comes to residents' digital skills and literacy. Across a wide variety of online activities, Navajo Nation residents report a level of engagement similar to residents of other states.

The digital divide encompasses not just access to Internet services (and the infrastructure and technologies that provide them) but also the adoption and meaningful use of those services. this rate is unacceptable, and the Broadband Plan includes several initiatives to foster digital equity and inclusion.

Infrastructure

Accomplishment Date: 2024

The NNTRC / BROADBAND Office has met the Challenge of the FCC; we have found 31,059 missing broadband service locations (BSL): This is currently still ongoing, the FCC wanted to keep this going due to the Significant findings.

MISSING BSL BY STATE

18,424 NM

666 Utah

19,090 AZ

September 12, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Broadband Data Task Force (BDTF), Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics opened the bulk challenge process for the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, the basis for the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) fixed availability maps. This is an important step in the FCC's broadband data collection effort since most of the broadband money in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is

required to be allocated by formula according to the data that will be in the BDC fixed availability maps. Therefore, the need for accurate data where broadband service is available and not available has never been of greater importance.

GOALS

Right-of-way Process and Other Permitting

Right-of-way Process and Other Permitting and Review Process /establish a utility corridor. That would streamline the ROW approval. a good majority of all fiber routes follow the major roads.

There's already a ROW that has been establish over and over. the current leasing regulation restricts. The ability to build on existing business site leasing. Feasibility and Sustainability / challenges with service sustainability on Navajo Lands require an increased coordination between NN governments and communications providers, Service Providers must communicate their intention on Navajo Land.

Goal Target Date: 2024

NM, AZ, UTAH Digital Equity Digital inclusion & Accessibility working groups / Donovan M.Carr tribal Affair

By all States working to together we can have a Digital Inclusion Evaluation Toolkit is a simple four-stage process for measuring the

effectiveness of digital inclusion projects. It includes a single, but flexible, set of outcomes and

indicators. If these are used consistently, and the results shared, we can build a strong evidence base for this field of work. Digital inclusion is increasingly important to enable everyone to access digital services, products and networks. It can have significant economic, social and health benefits.

Goal Target Date: 2024

First net tower site

FirstNet on the Navajo Nation has approx. 95 towers in service more than commercial networks. FirstNet provides the backup you need to stay connected during planned events and in an emergency. With FirstNet, you have access to the FirstNet Response Operations Group™ (ROG) — a dedicated team of former first responders always ready to support you. When emergencies happen, first responders need fast and reliable communication they can count on to help ensure public demand doesn't jam their networks. That's why the federal government set aside Band 14 spectrum specifically for public safety, dedicated when they need it.

Goal Target Date: 2024

Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

- BITCO contract for NNFRF/ARPA administrative modular building was executed.

- Council approved Chapter regional expenditure plans during their Summer Session.
- Facilitated the positing of budget transfer for NNDCCD to provide funding for Chapter project IDIQ contracts.
- Finalized the Southwest Indian Foundation agreement for veterans administration to secure their first veterans housing contract.

August

- NNFRFO actively participated in NNDCCD Chapters NNFRF/ARPA projects roll out meetings.
- NNFRFO held a strategic planning session where 95% of our staff participated.
- Council approved a resolution and President Nygren signed into law the streamlining of NNFRF/ARPA Chapter regional expenditure plans. Approval is now with the Naabik'iyati' Committee instead of the Navajo Nation Council.
- NNFRFO worked with Navajo Technologies Services, LLC to upgrade the internet bandwidth for our main office.

September

- All NTUA subrecipient agreements have been processed and all advance payments have been processed.
- NNFRFO funded the salary comparability study for Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management. Study contract has been issued to REDW.
- NNFRFO/OPVP conducted a NNFRF/ARPA budget review work session for all recipients of NNFRF/ARPA funding for approved expenditure plans and administrative-regulatory support funds.

- NNFRFO has facilitated the process of surpassing \$1 Billion in NNFRF/ARPA encumbrances and expenditures. We are now 48% of the way to expending 100% of the Navajo Nation NNFRF/ARPA funds.

PROJECTS

- NNFRF/ARPA administrative office modular building. The project is underway. It is anticipated that the modular building will be ready for occupancy by February 2024.
- NNFRFO facilitated the execution of a sub-recipient agreement for veterans housing with Southwest Indian Founding. This agreement will result in 20 veterans homes being built. NNFRFO received work that the first completed house should be available late November/early December. This will be an achievement worth celebrating.
- NNFRFO is partnering with Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and Navajo Nation Hopi Land Commission Office to advance the request for qualifications process to building homes. The RFQ process will generate a pre-qualified listing of contractors who can bid on projects. The concept is to expand this to Chapter regional expenditure plans that also allocate housing to their Chapter membership.
- Web-based NNFRF/ARPA funding project reporting system. NNFRFO is partnering up with Real Time Solutions to develop a user-friendly web-based reporting system that will have multiple input designations. The system should allow for an audit of the data submitted so that potential discrepancies could be identified and addressed early.

Navajo Nation Broadband Office

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

- Posted ARPA RFP for 51 Broadband projects
- FCC Fabric Challenge Results – 15,000 locations successfully added
- Awarded Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Grant - \$167,504
- Posted ERate consultant RFP

August

- Oso Internet Solutions: Groundbreaking for Fixed Wireless to serve 600 Dine' Families
- Hired Administrative Assistant

September

- Submitted draft NN Digital Equity Plan to Utah Broadband Center
- Launched NN Digital Equity survey for all three states
- Launched NN Broadband Office website – www.broadband.navajo-nsn.gov
- Utah DE Access Planning Grant Budget Period Extended 11/1/2023

PROJECTS

- Oso Internet Solutions ARPA projects
- Sacred Wind Communications ARPA projects
- Smith Bagley Inc. ARPA projects
- Utah Chapters Digital Equity Tour

Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission Office

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

- Meeting with Eastern Navajo Land Commission regarding update on DURAC.
- FY 24 Budget prepared and submitted.
- Creation of Uranium Leadership Team.
- Attended USEPA Field Office Opening.

August

- Meeting with ENLC and RDC members preparing for Thoreau Meeting on Red Rock Waste Disposal Site proposal.
- Attended the Thoreau Community meeting regarding the Red Rock Waste Disposal Site proposal.
- Attended USEPA Headquarters Listening Session on Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mines Project.
- Attended B&F FY 24 Budget Hearing.

September

- Charles Huskon No. 12 AUM Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) review.
- Institute for Tribal Environmental Program (ITEP) annual meeting and training.
- Attended USDOE Meeting on Environmental Assessment - Shiprock Waste Disposal Site – removal of evaporation pond.
- Reviewed and submitted comments on the EA for the Shiprock Waste Disposal Site, Removal of Evaporation Pond.

PROJECTS

- Development of Waste Disposal Methods (CERCLA) regulations.
- Uranium Leadership Team meetings to collectively address AUM-related projects and issues.
- Review and preparing comments on Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis.
- Managing the work of the Uranium Commission.
- Research, studies, and project development.
- Respond to Federal solicitations regarding uranium related policies, regulations, and projects.

Department of Justice

Navajo Nation Department of Justice

PROJECTS

Public Safety Partners Coordination

This project is to align and coordinate the various public safety partners of the Nation so when someone calls 9-1-1, they get a pickup by dispatch, an officer responds timely, there is a timely prosecution, and there is timely disposition in the courts. We also work to address substance abuse issues, which paralyze the system by diverting law enforcement resources to this issue. We also work to ensure rapid and appropriate response

to suicide concerns, hopefully with the result of prevention.

Ongoing: Ethel Branch, ebranch@nndoj.org

Anti-Corruption Task Force

Work to strengthen the Nation's response to white collar crime and corruption by coordinating partners who can provide a unified front from Office of the Prosecutor, to the Ethics and Rules Office, to DIT, to Office of the Auditor General, to Insurance Services and Office of the Controller. One major task will be to make recommendations to Navajo leadership on how to minimize the Nation's vulnerability to white collar crime and corruption.

Ongoing: Ethel Branch, ebranch@nndoj.org

Strengthening the Nation's ICWA Program

Effort to align the work of the NN ICWA Program, Office of Vital Records, NNDOJ Litigation Unit (represents NN ICWA Program in litigation), NNDOJ Human Services and Government Unit (provides day-to-day legal services to NN ICWA Program), and outside counsel on ICWA litigation, to minimize the Nation's vulnerability to special interest groups' legal attacks on ICWA. A big part of this is ensuring that problems at the program level are being addressed and using the law to smooth those out, such as through Plan of Operations amendments or updates to MOAs between programs such as between OVR and NNICWAP.

Ongoing: Ethel Branch, ebranch@nndoj.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Finalized settlement of San Juan County, New Mexico voting rights litigation

September 2023

The Nation, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, and several individual plaintiffs have settled the substantive portion of their voting-rights lawsuit against San Juan County, New Mexico. The Nation, NNHRC, and the

individual plaintiffs filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque on February 10, 2022, after the county redistricted the county commission in violation of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 2021, San Juan County adopted a county commission map that packed Navajo voters into District 1 at approximately 83% of that district's voting-age population, instead of redistricting in a more evenly-distributed way that would allow Navajo voters in two districts to elect the county commissioners of their choice.

After negotiations between the parties over the past year, the county commissioners agreed to adopt a new map, and now have done so. The new map complies with the Voting Rights Act and provides two county commission districts each comprised of approximately 74% and 69% American Indian voting-age population, respectively. Such a distribution eliminates packing in District 1 and gives Navajo voters an opportunity to elect their candidate of choice in both District 1 and District 2. Voters will continue to vote for county commissioners on the same schedule as before under the settlement: Districts 3, 4, and 5 in 2024, and Districts 1 and 2 in 2026

Receipt of the Nation's first of four expected opioids settlement payments in the amount of \$63 million

August 14, 2023

The Navajo Nation received its first payment arising from litigation against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies on Monday, August 14. This payment exceeded \$63 million. This amounts to roughly a quarter of what the Nation expects to receive from its opioids litigation. We filed these claims in 2018 under my leadership as the Nation's 11th Attorney General, but are just now seeing the returns on this litigation. Our next payment will likely be received in November. I am now working with NDOH and NDSS to determine how to use the proceeds. Our next meeting will include the President. All proceeds from this litigation must be used for opioids abatement. This means they must be used to address the opioids crisis in some fashion. For example: to support people in treatment and recovery from opioid use disorder and co-occurring disorders (including services such as housing, transportation, education, job placement and training, childcare, and legal services); to prevent misuse of opioids (including creating or funding drug prevention programs in schools, supporting community-based education or intervention services, and supporting greater access to mental health services for young people that might be at risk for opioid or other drug misuse; and to support and educate first responders involved in opioid-related emergencies.

Additionally, the Agreements also authorize "culturally appropriate activities, practices, teachings or ceremonies that may, in the judgment of the Tribes, be aimed at or supportive of remediation and abatement of the opioid

crisis within a tribal community." Tribal cultural activities can help address historical and intergenerational trauma and threats to cultural integrity that may be underlying contributing factors, if not root causes, to addiction. For example, Traditional Activities Associated with Cultural Identity and Healing; Culturally Competent Integrated Treatment Models; Culturally Grounded Community Prevention; Peacekeeping and Wellness Courts; and Community Workforce Development and Training.

Major Strides In Filling Critical Vacancies & Improving Staff Morale and Performance Capacity

August & September

- Fully staffed Litigation Unit
- Staffed up Major Crimes and White Collar Crime Units of the Office of the Prosecutor
- Secured new, more spacious and more professional office space for Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Window Rock Prosecutor, Tohajilee Prosecutor, and DOJ Tohajilee staff
- OTP (Office of the Prosecutor) held first in-person All Staff Meeting since the pandemic started, which included important team building exercises that are leading to increased and more effective communication across the OTP's 10 district offices, 2 Units, Office of Victims of Crime, and Headquarters
- Successfully completed DOJ summer internship program, which included 4 legal interns, some of whom may join the Department as permanent staff within the year

GOALS

Develop a Budget to Expand Operation Rainbow Bridge Staffing in Phoenix

This will allow us to better integrate our efforts with the State in transitioning our relatives to better care (or home); will allow us to collaborate better with law enforcement partners (AZ US Attorney's Office, AZ AG's Office, Local Law Enforcement, BIA Law Enforcement) to advance the prosecution of financial crimes and human crimes arising from the Arizona healthcare debacle; will lead to arrests of individuals who preyed upon our people at home by inducing them to go to fraudulent homes and care providers in the Valley; will allow transition to development of vital resources in the Valley provided by the Nation itself of behavioral health care services and safe sober living homes. Will also arm us with more information to transmit to the Navajo public to prevent the ongoing victimization of our people in this fraudulent scheme.

End of November

Advance President's 1000 home initiative by honing in on specific low hanging fruit housing projects

We are finally honing in on the partners and projects that can build tremendous momentum in the near term to advance the President's effort to build tremendous new home inventory across income levels all throughout the Nation. Expected outcomes are focused strategies based on income level/financing options, and specific identified partners and projects to begin pursuing before the end of FY24 Q1

End of November

Propose specific amendments to the Nation's criminal laws in collaboration with the public defender

This is so important to ensuring justice to the hundreds of victims each year whose very serious and very violent incidents do not get prosecuted by the feds. These amendments will include the lifting of statutes of limitations so the failure to prosecute on the feds' part does not impede our pursuit of justice for victims.

End of November

Office of Management & Budget

(Reporting separately)



Office of the Navajo Tax Commission

Office of the Navajo Tax Commission

PROJECTS

E-Commerce Tax

Project Contact: Effie Edsitty, effie.edsitty@navajo-nsn.gov

Research the possibility of administering a Navajo Nation E-Commerce Tax. This tax will be similar to the Navajo Nation Sales Tax. Our target taxpayers would be Amazon, eBay, Wayfair, etc.

Phase 1: research the companies and determine how many sales are occurring on the Navajo Nation

Phase 2: have public meetings on the thoughts and suggestions from the public and communities.

Phase 3: Survey the Navajo Nation/public.

Phase 4: give a sincere projection to OPVP.

Chapter Tax Ordinance

Project Contact: Effie Edsitty, effie.edsitty@navajo-nsn.gov

This project will assist local chapters to gain more tax revenue from businesses in their chapters.

Currently: DOJ, ONTC and the Elections Office all have different timelines.

We need to coordinate a meeting in which we all decide how to proceed. There are 3 chapters who have submitted documentation for consideration.

Solar Tax

Project Contact: Effie Edsitty, effie.edsitty@navajo-nsn.gov

Research the possibility of administering a Navajo Nation Solar Tax.

- Phase 1: research the benefits of this tax; pro's and con's. What does this mean for our utility companies.
- Phase 2: have public meetings on the thoughts and suggestions from the public and communities.
- Phase 3: Survey the Navajo Nation/public.
- Phase 4: give a sincere projection to OPVP.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 2023 Tax Revenue Collections

Accomplishment Date: Sep. 30, 2023

Total Tax Collect for FY 2023: \$142,265,353.00

FY 2023 Projection: \$107,040,500.00

Exceeded Projection by: \$ 35,224,853.00.

FMIS training for Staff

Accomplishment Date: Sep. 30, 2023

66% of ONTC staff completed their FMIS training.
(At the end of July, we were at 33% completion.)

We doubled our numbers in FMIS trained staff.

We are working on the last 34% to become FMIS certified.

Hiring of temporary employees

Accomplishment Date: Sep. 30, 2023

I have hired six (6) temporary employees to assist with our scanning and archiving project. I believe this to be in cadence with the President's initiative of increasing our workforce. However, some of these temporary employees have been outperforming my permanent employees. I would like to have some of the temps take on a permanent position. I will work with DPM on this transition. I noticed that the temps do not have the educational background, but they are very trainable and are great critical thinkers. I do not want to lose them.

GOALS

Projected Tax Revenue

Our goal for tax revenue collection for 1Q2024 is: \$31 million.

Goal Target Date: Dec. 31, 2023

Compliance: Desk Audits performed

Our goal for the Compliance Department is to complete 2,500 desk audits.

Goal Target Date: Dec. 31, 2023

Audit: Field Audits Completed, Legal: Opening, Hearing, and Closing Appeals

Our goal for the Audit Department is to complete 10 field audits., Our goal for the Legal Department is to complete 8 appeals.

Goal Target Date: Dec. 31, 2023, Dec. 31, 2023

Office of the Controller

Office of the Controller

PROJECTS

RFQ 31-08-3108SB for ERP System

Project Contact: Tracy Shorty, traci.shortey@dpm.navajo-nsn.gov

Working with Department of Personnel Management on reviewing proposals from vendors on possible new Financial System.

Amazon Business

Project Contact: Robert Willie, rwillie@nnooc.org

Objective is to have the Navajo Nation business to procure goods. the 6B process would be utilized to procure.

Micro Purchase policy for PCard

Project Contact: Darryl Multine, darryl.multine@nnooc.org

To have an apporved policy in place for the use of PCards in the Micro Purchasing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Audit

Accomplishment Date: 8/25/23

Field work had begun in January 2023. The Financial Audit portion is usually completed by June 30.

Single Audit completion and submittal

Accomplishment Date: 2-Oct-23

Single audit fieldwork started January 2023. Generally this is completed by June 30. It is a great coordination between the programs, Office of Management and Budget and Office of the Controller to gather all the documentation and responses needed for the audits.

FY 2024 Budget

Accomplishment Date: 22-Sep-23

The great budget process was completed in early September and signed by the president.

GOALS

PCard Policy for MicroPurchases

To have a policy to utilize PCards for micro purchases.

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Amazon Business

To have a process for programs to utilize to procure goods from Amazon Business which follows the procurement policies.

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

FY 2023 Closeouts

To have closeout numbers completed and calculated and send over to leadership and Office of Managment and Budget for the fiscal year end.

Goal Target Date: 11/17/23

Division of Community Development

NDCD ARPA Office

PROJECTS

NDCD ARPA Office

Project Contact: Edwin J. Begay, ASO, ebegay@nndcd.org

Navajo Division of Community Development Fiscal Recovery Fund, American Rescue Plan Act continues to work one on one with all Navajo Nation local chapters either Non-Certified or Local Government Act (LGA) Certified chapters with their projects legislated through the ARPA funds. Current there are four hundred and seven-six draft and approved legislative projects with all chapters throughout the Navajo Nation including a few rescinded projects. Under the LGA Certified Chapters there are eight Subrecipient Agreements that have been processed through the 164 Review.

The official designated office of the Navajo Nation American Rescue Plan Act, Executive Director has joined our NND CD FRF ARPA Team in providing local chapter invitations to their chapter meetings, either planning, regular or special dully called meetings to include the coordinators to ensure that the projects are properly attended too. Advisements and support is given by the official office of NNARPA in cases as such with lead roles of providing the technical support for data of projects, cost of projects including the analyst, goals of the projects and carrying

out the projects with logistics of legislative presentation and official adoption of the chapter projects. The local chapters can view the project activities on their website to ensure that their respective projects are in the process or for those needing additional supportive documents or cost estimates.

NDCD ARPA Office

Project Contact: Edwin J. Begay, ASO, ebegay@nndc.org

Most recently the IDIQ, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts have been signed into agreement at Twin Arrows, Flagstaff, Arizona on Friday, August 18, 2023. Therefore, consultants of the four diffident consulting firms are now meeting with local community Navajo Nation chapters regarding their projects through assessments and planning throughout the one hundred and ten chapters including the LGA Certified chapters with Subrecipient Agreements. The four consultants are: JSRA – Tucson, Arizona (Johnson Smitthipong & Rosamond Associates; Iinaabaa, Inc. Farmington; IDSA, Albuquerque, New Mexico (Indigenous Design Studio & Architecture; and LAM, Gallup, New Mexico. These firms are allocated up to eight meetings with local chapters on the projects of which also includes the official “kick-off” meeting to serve as the eighth meeting. The consultants send out the schedules when meeting with the local chapters and request of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, Fiscal Recovery Fund, American Rescue Plan Act – Team to participate and join their meetings in case there are questions on the process of the ARPA projects and its funding.

NDCD ARPA Office

Project Contact: Edwin J. Begay, ASO, ebegay@nndcd.org

The NNDCD FRF ARPA Team is also assigned the duties and volunteer their personal time to attend Saturday Agency Council meetings with chapter officials, grazing officials, community land use committees, council delegates and support personnel. So, far during this quarter, the NNDCD FRF ARPA Team as attended the Eastern Navajo Agency and Northern Agency Council Meetings. Team is very dependable and volunteer their personal time to engage with local community chapters as a support of their respective community ARPA projects. This Team as also set-up a booth within the tent – Office of the Navajo Nation President/Vice President in providing the services to our Navajo citizens.

NNDCD FRF ARPA Team will continue to provide the necessary support with all local community chapters with their projects and positive representation of the Division of Community Development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects

Accomplishment Date: Continuum

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects of the 110 is a continuum based upon the projects of submissions from the respective chapters using the ARPA funds. A few of the chapters are still in the early processing of projects, even tho NDCD ARPA Team has met with the coordinators, officials and delegates on the proper way of

processing the documents for project funding. Repeat sessions up to 12 times before progress occurs.

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects

Accomplishment Date: Continuum

NDCD ARPA Team has assessed the meeting times with chapters and patiently have continued to provide that technical assistance to ensure that progress occurs.

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects

Accomplishment Date: Continuum

NDCD ARPA Team has moved with the IDIQ consultants to provide the support as project management and provides the guidance upon the acceptance of the projects.

GOALS

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects will continue with the assistance and guidance of the ARPA Team with NDCD and compile the necessary documents ensure that deadline date of July 1, 2024 is met with earmarking of funds and encumbrance.

Goal Target Date: 1-Jul-24

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects

NDCD ARPA Team will structure the encumbered funds to cover the chapter projects for its continuum to the fullest December 2026

Goal Target Date: 30-Sep-24

NDCD ARPA Chapter Projects

Navajo Nation Chapter Projects should be in full function with the proper funds earmarked to complete as deemed.

Goal Target Date: 30-Sep-26

Administrative Service Center

PROJECTS

Filling vacant positions

Project Contact: Jaron Charley, jcharley@nndcd.org

Utilizing fairs for recruitment of vacancy positions within department to include chapter houses. Connecting with Department of Personal Management to identify strategies that can be used for hiring and retention. Requesting referrals on a more consistent basis for positions being open for extended amount of time.

Updating Employee Performance Evaluations in order to request step increases and/or bonuses for tenured and deserving employees.

Expected outcome is to minimize the amount of vacancies and turnovers for within the division. Hiring new employees, as well as retaining top performing employees is paramount for servicing our communities to the best of our abilities.

Complete end of FY' 23 Budget Process

Project Contact: Jaron Charley, jcharley@nndcd.org

The objective of the last quarter is always to complete the closeout of Fiscal Year budgets for all chapters. Complete carryovers and comprehensive budgets, and the following Fiscal Year's budgets.

The Administrative Service Centers staff assisted chapters with budget forms completion. We assisted all chapters that requested our services. Each chapter had varying levels of requested assistance for their budget. ASC offered both virtual and in person assistance depending on the request.

Outcome is that all chapters completed their FY' 24 budget and carryovers as well. Keeping a monthly tracking system in place for next Fiscal Year will be critical in ensuring chapters stay within budget and expend at the proper rate.

Standardizing Operations and Trainings

Project Contact: Jaron Charley, jcharley@nndcd.org

Beginning the process of standardizing operations and trainings for the Administrative Service Center and its implementation and role with Chapters. First phase is identifying parts of Five Step Management System, Title 26, and Standard Operations Procedure that need to be updated. Some practices have been identified as outdated or too vague and leaves too much open for personal interpretation.

Once areas for improvement are all identified, next phase is establishing updated procedure and operation. This phase will involve chapter administration and officials input, Department of Justice, Rules and Ethics, Division of Community Development leadership, and Administrative Service Center Staff.

Final phase is finalization and gaining approval via chapter resolutions and delegate support. Lastly will involve gaining approved legislation for implementation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Updated Employee Performance Appraisal Forms for Department

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep

The Administrative Service Center Department received listing for outstanding Employee Performance Appraisal Forms. these forms are critical when requesting step increases and bonuses for deserving employees. Senior Programs and Project Specialists were then tasked with completing and updating all outstanding Employee Performance Appraisal Forms.

Once compiled, we submitted forms to Department of Personal Management to be uploaded and updated in their system. Next, we will be getting step increase and/or bonus packets together for employees who have a history of outstanding EPAFs. This will improve retention of great employees as pay increases haven't occurred in the last few years to my knowledge.

Capacity 110

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

The Administrative Service Center was approached by Department of Human Resources to assist in their training development. The training is tailored to Chapter Administrations and Officials and focuses on Five Management Systems, In-House Policies and Procedures, CLUPC, budgets, staff development, etc. Input from Administrative Service Centers' staff is vital in the process of training development as we have direct contact and oversight of chapter operations and assisting personal when requested. The completion of this project will see all chapters undergo this training and come away with a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. the better understanding will assist them in better assisting their communities.

Budgets

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

Budget process for new Fiscal year '24 began at the beginning of 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year '23. Chapters were assigned their duties in preparing for Fiscal Year '24. Monthly budgets were updated, and future goals were identified. Budget work sessions were scheduled for chapters by ASC sub offices and invitations to all chapters. This was to assist chapters in the budget development. Carryovers were identified and planning for FY '24 started. Resolutions for budgets were submitted and passed and composed budgets were sent to ASC to check for accuracy and approval. Last is processing budgets into the WIND system and gathering final resolution approvals

GOALS

Capacity Building 110

Assist in the completion of the Chapter Capacity Building 110 training in cooperation with the Department of Human Resources. This training will assist the chapters in their abilities to work together between administration and officials to serve their communities. First training was scheduled for October for 2023, but that hasn't happened yet. Goal is to start first training by November and have two ASC regions completed by end of First quarter.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Minimize Vacancies

Previous top challenge for the year has been issues of short staff. Plans and strategies are being developed to address the large amount of vacancies at the chapter levels. Some chapters currently have no permanent staff and other have maybe one. This is an ongoing issue, and is being addressed. Outreach recruitment, as well as strategies in cooperation with the Department of Personal Management are being established to lower the number of vacancies. Goal is to hire at least 2-4 new hires per month, while retaining current staffing levels.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Budgets

Ensure all chapters get approved for their FY' 24 budgets and get their carryovers completed. Proper carryover budgets keep the chapters going while awaiting deposit of FY '24 budgets funds. Monthly tracking will be implemented for the first quarter, and that will give us a good outlook

for the rest of the year. From the completion of the quarterly budget review we can identify where chapters may need assistance to avoid over expenditures and shortfalls that can be determined. A focus on more proactive instead of reactive is the approach for this quarter.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

DCD-Navajo Addressing Authority Department

PROJECTS

Shiprock rural addressing project

Project Contact: Michele Peterson & Jessica Johnson (LRAC) ; NAAD staff, nnaa-info@nndcd.org

Assisting Shiprock local rural addressing committee (LRAC) with finalizing road/street centerline names after public hearing for chapter resolution approval ; LRAC ordered sign materials to be prepared for intersection sign installation ; conducted Right-Of-Way (R-O-W) clearance packets for NM.DOT & BIA Roads ; LRAC had to go through the process of collecting data for all the homes and public buildings where potential address points are located ; from the distribution of points, existing road/street network was assessed to determine with road/street would become the centerline for physical addressing tasks ; public hearing allowed LRAC to have the road/street names approved so that sign materials can be purchased for installation

Lupton rural addressing project

Project Contact: Ricky Murphy (LRAC) ; NAAD staff, nnaa-info@nndcd.org

Assisted Lupton local rural addressing committee (LRAC) with road/street sign installation for rural addressing tasks ; establishing physical address numbers will continue now that road/street signs are installed ; LRAC had to go through the process of collecting data for all the homes and public buildings where potential address points are located ; from the distribution of points, existing road/street network was assessed to determine with road/street would become the centerline for physical addressing tasks ; public hearing allowed LRAC to have the road/street names approved so that sign materials can be purchased for installation

US Census Collaboration

Project Contact: Leonard Gorman (NNHRC), Byron Bitsoi (NLD), NAAD staff, nnaa-info@nndcd.org

Assisted Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC) office with Navajo Land Department (NLD) to meet with US Census Bureau ; HB-4 (New Mexico house bill) was approved that indicates that the county must comply with boundaries of tribes and pueblo groups so that voting boundaries coincide with census blocks that may or may not line up with existing dataset ; major election is coming up next year and HB-4 is to help support the voting rights of indigenous tribes ; Navajo Nation offices met with US Census Bureau leadership at Twin Arrows that included Deirdra Bishop (chief geography branch), Charles Tippeconnic (tribal relations), Jim Castagneri (geographer-Denver), Theo Sheppard (Washington HQ), Cathy Lacy (Denver/Dallas regional director), Laura Waggoner

(geography) ; Navajo Nation and US Census Bureau collaboration will continue

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PAV document tasks

Accomplishment Date: end of FY24

Produced 350 physical address verification (PAV) documents that is part of the proof-of-residency (P-O-R) process ; some request come in via email, some by phone calls, some by fax, and some by the Navajo public coming in person; two staff stays in the office to focus on these requests

When a customer comes in for a PAV document, they are required to submit their photo identification card, their utility bill that shows mailing address for the house that they live in, and the certificate of Indian blood (CIB) ; on the application that they submit along with their credential, they will provide a drawing of where they live relative to a major highway or road, if they don't have the latitude/longitude coordinates ; Plus Code can also be provided if the requesting party knows how to generate one from the web resource mapping tool ; it is this information that is used to generate the PAV document ; for that state of New Mexico, the REAL ID Act began in November 2016 ; from that point on, the Navajo residents have been required to submit two proofs-of-residency with matching information that must be on a letterhead ; when the division of community development's Navajo Addressing Authority Department produces a PAV document, the requesting party is advised to obtain the second document from their chapter house ; this extra step fulfills the requirement set by motor vehicle division (MVD)

ARPA funding tasks

Accomplishment Date: till end of ARPA deadline

Assisted ARPA and DCD staff with work sessions on funding recipients at various chapters such as Twin Arrows, Ganado Pavilion, Whiterock, Shiprock, Red Mesa, San Juan college, Churchrock, Inscription House, Albuquerque, and other selected locations ; chapters who got funded for ARPA section 3 (\$8,802,340) were given guidance with the process as it relates to DOJ eligible determinations and related requirements based on the legislation ; this project will continue until deadline has been met by Navajo Nation

ARPA funding request had been documented based on the ARPA applications ; for example, Utah Commission District noted \$88,393 for a rural addressing technician with Aneth chapter house ; T'iis Nas Bas chapter requested \$100,000 for their rural addressing project along with other categories such as four corners powerline project, bathroom additions, purchasing of heavy equipment , food distribution, multipurpose (warehouse) building, old chapter house demolition, and scattered housing powerline project

Potable Water Delivery Program

Accomplishment Date: end of 2025

In August for two days, DCD hosted coordination meeting with IHS, water resource, NECA, DigDeep, Water Warriors, Dineta Cultural Resource Management, Weston Solutions, Collective Medicine, and Community Development ; The purpose of this gathering was to implement a potable water delivery program on Navajo Nation for homes that do not have piped water and who do not have access to safe

water supplies for domestic needs. It is intended to be an interim solution for many homes until piped community water systems are constructed to these homes. The project is presently funded by the Indian Health Service (IHS) for \$2.69-Million and other Federal and Tribal funding partners are being encouraged to participate to extend the program if successful

The IHS was appropriated \$10-M for the delivery of potable water under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The IHS headquarters evaluated cost proposals developed in collaboration with American Indian and Alaskan Natives tribes from the IHS Areas to cover equipment needs and/or up to two years of operational costs to support the delivery of potable water to homes not connected to a piped water system

From April 2020 to February 2021, the IHS worked with the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (DCD), NN Department of Water Resources (DWR), NN Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) to increase access to safe water sources through the installation of 59 transitional water points (TWPs)

GOALS

Shiprock LRAC sign installation

For these meetings, maps were used for the chapter political boundaries discussion ; the green lines would represent the Navajo Land Department's position that these are Navajo chapter political boundaries and the gold color lines are the US census tracts for chapter political boundaries. Maps were generated from the 1977 Navajo chapter political boundaries file. The Green lines conform with the 1977 chapter political boundaries and US census subdivision

boundaries do not coincide ; this discussion will continue

The most important reason for creating physical addresses is to enhance the effective and rapid location of properties by public safety personnel, including law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel in the rural areas of the Navajo Nation. The rural addressing standards are further designed to eliminate duplicate or phonetically similar street names, to provide for the uniform marking of streets and roadways, and to provide for the assignment of numbers for all properties and structures throughout the Navajo Nation

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

Lupton physical addressing tasks

President and Vice-President's office can help by providing some funding for tribal vehicle rental ; if a triby field vehicle is available, the Office of the President and Vice-President can help purchase a digital meter instrument (DMI) to be installed inside the field unit ; this way, when staff is driving a centerline (road/street), physical distance can be recorded ; the physical distance is converted into a physical address number for posting and recorded in the map

Section III of the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Implementation Document (NNRAID) standards state that the Navajo Nation has initiated a rural addressing initiative in support of moving to an enhanced 9-1-1 system Navajo Nation-wide. Rural Addressing is a prerequisite to enhanced 9-1-1 and the initial phase of the rural addressing initiative is expected to take several years to complete ; these standards are posted at nnaa.nndcd.org

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

US Census Collaboration

Support and funding will help by Office of the President and Vice-President for additional meeting possibly at Twin Arrows ; the first meeting last month was paid for by US Census Bureau ; due to the end of fiscal year, DCD and other offices could not reserve the meeting facility at Twin Arrows ; thanks to US Census Bureau, they made it possible to still meet with Navajo Nation staff

For these meetings, maps were used for the chapter political boundaries discussion ; the green lines would represent the Navajo Land Department's position that these are Navajo chapter political boundaries and the gold color lines are the US census tracts for chapter political boundaries. Maps were generated from the 1977 Navajo chapter political boundaries file. The Green lines conform with the 1977 chapter political boundaries and US census subdivision boundaries do not coincide ; this discussion will continue

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

Department of Diné Education

Office of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services

30 days

OSERS Vocational Rehabilitation: VR continued its collaborative partnership with the University of Arizona Sonoran Center to provide transition

support to Navajo Nation high schools interested in establishing Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities for students with disabilities. Window Rock Unified School District is currently in its 2nd year. Kayenta Unified School District plans on implementing the WBL Initiative beginning Fall 2023.

OSERS VR: OSERS worked diligently with the Wellington consultant team to design and develop the VR data management system. This system will be used to collect preliminary data demographics, track referrals, manage the application process, determine program eligibility, development of individual plans for employment, and track employment services. Data generated will create reports on the collection of reports of performance measures for submission to USDOE Rehabilitation Services Administration. Consultants worked closely with VR staff and supervisors during the 4th quarter to ensure all critical data elements were accurate for reporting purposes. VR staff were tasked with entering all pertinent case file data by September 30, 2023. VR data entries were successfully completed on September 28, 2023. OSERS will soft launch the new VR database management system on October 1, 2024

OSERS VR: A total of 241 VR consumers were served for 4th Quarter (33 referrals, 17 eligibility determinations, development of 13 Individual Plans for Employment, and 11 successful employment closures). A total of 115 IL consumers were served for the 4th Quarter (35 referrals, 19 eligibility determinations, 18 new IL plans, and 6 successful closures). OSERS VR/IL: Staff continue to enroll in online VR courses from Northwest Indian College Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Institute toward earning a certificate, AA, BA, or MA in Rehabilitation Counseling. One Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) was hired for the Chinle office and began working in July 2023. One

Rehabilitation Service Technician (RST) was hired for the Kayenta office and started in September 2023.

Arizona Early Intervention (GIB): Team meeting with GIB Partnership Program (GIBPP), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Arizona Schools for the Deaf & Blind (ASDB). We went over: Announcements, Navajo Word of the week, Technology Loaner equipment for families, ASDB Updates, LMT Networking meetings, Office Updates, Resources, Community Event, Coaching Opportunities, Quarterly Updates, Pre IFSP (Evaluations, Assessments, Initial IFSP Meetings), Initial Intakes, Referrals, Scheduling (IFSP meetings - 6 months updates, Annual) , Transition and Tracking. GIB Staff attended the following trainings: AzEIP Service Coordination, AzEIP Professional Development/ Education Requirements, Family Engagement, GONA Conference by TCRHCC, Baby Talk Series: Fostering Inclusive Play for Infants and Toddlers, Positive Behavior, AzEIP Child Contract Reports, Wright Express Orientation. 10 Parent Trainings were provided to 12 families. Trainings were Virtual or in- person. Training provided were Development (Play Skills, Toddler Language Development), Child & Family Assessment, AzEIP Services, AzEIP Child & Family Handbook Transitions to School Districts. Public Awareness Events, virtual and in person. Coconino Networking meeting, Tuba City Unified School District Back to School Event, Dine College Health Fair Event, Kayenta Flea Market. Overall activity for program activities the program completed; 14 Children Referred to GIB, 13 Initial Intakes, 11 Evaluations, 15 Child and family Assessments, 11 IFSPs Completed with Families, 06 Child Find Events, 10 Parent Training Events, and 09 Transition Activities.

New Mexico Early Intervention (GIB): Assisted with 4 health fairs in NM; Mariano Lake, Torreon,

Shiprock, and Thoreau. Assisted with flyers, provided information booth with promotional items, and completed hearing and developmental screenings at each event. This effort was in partnership with Saint Bonaventure Mission and School, NNPIIL, YOCAMA, and other participating programs. Mariano Lake included 23 for public awareness and 36 for hearing Torreón is 26 for public awareness and 19 for hearing screenings. Thoreau is 19 for public awareness and 23 for hearing screenings. The program conducted a presentation at the BIE conference on July 6, 2023, in Albuquerque, NM.

Home Visiting: The Navajo Nation Home Visiting 30-day accomplishments include successfully implementing home visiting services to enrolled Navajo families and their children. Monitoring and providing developmental screenings for children each month. Providing referrals and resources to families who need additional health support or financial support. The home visiting program had a successful site monitoring visit with the Arizona Department of Health and Tribal MIECHV that pertained to funding & service delivery implementation. Overall, the program provided direct home visits to 73 families with 88 children and conducted 111 developmental screenings and 211 referrals provided for this 4th quarter reporting period.

NNPIIL: The major accomplishments the program achieved in the last 30 days consisted of completing the spring/summer outreach series, presenting the Navajo Nation Early Childhood Resource Map to the Board of Dine' Education, and hosting an in-person Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative. Through the Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative that Navajo Project I- LAUNCH leads, the annual spring/summer Outreach Series concluded with a total of 12 outreach events throughout the rural Navajo Nation. The purpose of the Outreach Series is

to provide a space for the community and early childhood & family providers to gather to receive and distribute vital resources. Various early childhood and family programs are tabled at each location. Additionally, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH presented the Navajo Nation Early Childhood Resource Map at the September 6, 2023, Navajo Nation Board of Education Regular Meeting. The Program Supervisor shared the Arc-GIS map that pinpoints early childhood and family resources throughout the Navajo Nation and surrounding areas. Lastly, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH hosted the quarterly in-person Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative meeting in Crownpoint, NM. Navajo Technical University served as a host for the meeting on September 15, 2023. Dr. Colleen Bowman, provost for NTU, provided a presentation on NTU and Head Start partnership as well as information about the Early Childhood Multicultural Education department's efforts to recruit early childhood educators.

Arizona Early Intervention (GIB): Continued partnership meetings with ASDB, NN GIB Partnership program with NAU, DDD, and ASDB to receive updates program updates on program resources, community events, coaching opportunities, and IFSP family case file and service monitoring. Attended Understand Stress to Embrace the Beauty of Life. Dine Language Institute. Parents training was provided to 07 Families, virtual about Child Development (Language, Gross Motor, Self Help), Child Developmental Screening, and Child and family Rights. A Family's Guide to AzEIP Funding. Public Awareness was conducted at the Kayenta Flea Market, Brochures to provide information about the GIB Referral Process. Dilcon Health Care Center, Community Awareness & Resource Fair. Child Find Events conducted at the local townships of Tonalea, Kayenta, and Chinle, there were 9 children screened. Overall early intervention activities that were completed for the reporting period include: 28, Children

Referred to GIB, 15 Initial Intakes, 11 Evaluations, 15 Child and family Assessments, 15 IFSPs, 6 Child Find events, 8 Parent Training Events, and 11 Transitions.

New Mexico Early Intervention (GIB): The EIP program conducted a presentation at the Navajo Nation Headstart Conference on August 09, 2023, in Albuquerque, NM. Presentation collaboration included GIB, Sara Clancy of NAU, and Lena Yellowhair of NNHS. Information included Part C in NM and AZ and ways to collaborate with Headstart. Information was presented to Headstart staff in two separate sessions. The program completed Tele-Audiology Training in August 2023. GIB EI and New Mexico School for the Deaf will partner to begin completing audiology testing on newborns and infants under 6 months of age. Training included hands-on practice with equipment and practice, risk factors for hearing loss, how the hearing system works, the impact of hearing loss in language development, and types of hearing loss.

Home Visiting: The Navajo Home Visiting program has successfully executed three (3) sub-contractual agreements with the local contract schools on the Reservation. This includes executing and implementing funding and service deliveries from funding sources of the First Things First of Arizona, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) through the Federal government. were hosting the Back-to-School event, providing presentations at the Navajo Head Start Conference, and awarded the 12 month no-cost extension. The annual Back to School event was held in Tohatchi, NM. The event invited early childhood and family programs to provide resources to families. Families with young children were also provided backpacks, school supplies, raffle prizes, and food bags donated from several programs including St. Mary's

Food Bank, McKinley County Early Childhood Coalition, and Dillard's of Flagstaff. Also, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH provided 3 presentations at the Navajo Head Start Education Conference in the beginning of August. I-LAUNCH presented on Bridging Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and the Pyramid Model, Positive Dine' Parenting, and Early Intervention Support. Navajo Project I-LAUNCH has a current MOU with Navajo Head Start to provide professional development and Infant and early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.

Lastly, I-LAUNCH submitted and was awarded a 12-month no-cost extension to the grant. The original end date of the grant was September 29, 2023, but is now extended to September 29, 2024, with an emphasized focus on remaining grant goals and sustainability.

90 days

Arizona Early Intervention (GIB): During this reporting period the program attends regularly scheduled team meeting with the GIB Partnership Program, DDD, and ASDB. During these team meetings, the focus topics included receiving program announcements, Navajo Word of the week, Technology Loaner equipment for families, ASDB Updates, Indian Health Service case review (LMT), resources, community events, coaching opportunities, quarterly updates, and IFSP case monitoring review with state and the Navajo Nation. The program staff received the following trainings; OAE Hearing Screening, Neuroscience Development, Pediatric Feeding Disorder, Neurohealth, Fatherhood, Nutrition, and Toddler Tech. Story Telling. The program also provided parent training about Child Development, the Transition process with the school districts, the Importance of Vision and hearing and AzEIP process updates. Public Awareness was conducted with Navajo Head Start Program and

the program provided program information and brochures. Child Find Events completed for this reporting period were held at the local communities; Kayenta, Winslow, and Chinle there were 9 children screened. Overall activity for the program includes 37 referrals to GIB, 12 intakes, 5 evaluations, 10 Child & Family assessments, 17 IFSPs established, 4 Child Find, 7 Parent Training, and 11 transitions to local schools.

New Mexico Early Intervention (GIB): Case reviews and new referral consult meetings began and occur every Monday morning. Staff review cases and next steps for new referrals to plan and coordinate services within the 45-day timeline. Reflective Supervision with Sara Clancey restarted with the NM GIB team. Meetings occur at least twice a month. Referrals increased and exceeded the 4th quarter goal of 70 with 84 referrals. The number of children identified and leading to evaluation and eligibility is 35. There were 31 IFSPs developed. The number of child-find activities was also met with 23 activities with a goal of 20.

Home Visiting: The Navajo Nation Home Visiting program's 90-day accomplishment includes executing contracts and funding from First Things First (FTF), the Arizona Department of Health (ADHS), and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). This has allowed the program to continue to provide funding for direct home-visiting services opportunities to Navajo families with young children. These service deliveries offer family lessons, activities, child developmental monitoring screenings, and referrals to appropriate resources.

NNPIL: At the 30-day period of the quarter, the project added new Early Childhood Speaker Series episodes to the Niha Alchini Ba podcast featuring guest speakers sharing information on early childhood and family topics. The podcast

is promoted through the project's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Johnson O'Malley Program

30 Days

1. NNJOM met with OOC regarding First In First Out. We will now be meeting on a regular basis for technical assistance.

2. Presented to about 100 participants at the National Johnson O'Malley Association Conference.

3. Two teachers and Two subcontractors from NNJOM subcontracting schools won awards at the National Johnson O'Malley Association Conference.

60 Days

4. NNJOM provided an overview of the NNJOM to the Arizona Department of Education on August 11, 2023. NNJOM and ADE's Office of Indian Education will partner to help subcontracting schools and tribal programs in AZ.

5. NNJOM completed the Annual Navajo Nation Johnson O'Malley Program for subcontractors. The Conference hosted about 200 participants from most of the subcontracting schools.

6. Ninety percent of the subcontractors have completed their applications.

90 Days

7. NNJOM helped plan and the School Safety and Health Summit.

8. Completed 5 JOM trainings for subcontractors.

Challenges

1. The Contract Administration is inconsistent with their processes. They hinder the completion of contracts and refuse to work with this program to resolve the issue. There has been no guidance nor any recommendations to help this program rectify the issue.

2. Some of the subcontractors have carryover funds from contracts prior to FY2022. Spending was hindered by the pandemic shutdown and currently from high staff turnover.

3. NNJOM contracts continue to take weeks to process.

Navajo Nation Library

30 Days

1. The NN Library recently attended the NM Tribal Education Alliance Tribal Convening Meeting in late September. One of the concerns raised by the NN Library was the inability to operate as a tribal public library system in the State of NM. Although, the State of NM Library does recognize the NN Library as an entity, the operating powers that the NN Library can go forward with in the state is not recognized. Going forward, we will either need to setup a NN Library based in NM or revisit an MOU/MOA with the State for the NN Library under DODE to operate using the funds from the Yazzie/Martinez vs the State of NM.

2. Before the closeout of the FY23, we were able to put in an order to Salina Bookshelf who sent 37 book titles with 4 copies to each. We would have

2 sets circulate with the public and 2 sets that we can collect in our Special Collections.

3. In the Q4 of FY23, all 3 branch libraires of the NNL provided 11,755 services that ranges from circulation to print services.

60 Days

1. In August, the NN Library won a mini-grant from the University of Arizona Public Health, Arizona Center for Rural Health for the AZ Librarians Enhancing Resilience in Rural Communities Initiative. Our focus was on health literacy and hosting physical wellness courses that are directed at senior age levels.

2. In August, the NN Library alongside the AZ Health Zone hosted a Navajo Nation Wellness Week from August 21 – 25 at the Main Library in Window Rock, AZ. Each day had a theme associated: Financial Wellness Monday, Mental/Spiritual Wellness Tuesday, Nutritional Wellness Wednesday, Physical Wellness Thursday, and Kids Wellness Day on Friday. Each day had around 80 participates attend altogether.

90 Days

1. Through the month of July, the NN Library was hosting the Navajo Traditions Weaving Workshop that was funded by the Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums, and the National Endowment of the Humanities. We had 12 participants whom all were learning the fundamentals of weaving through our master weaver. Many were able to put their own looms together and transfer from the provided looms into the new ones they constructed.

2. After 3 years of being closed, the Torreon Library in Torreon/Starlake Chapter in NM officially opened its doors as of July 19, 2023. They

provide library service to the Torreon/Starlake, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, and Counselor Chapters. They are looking to use some of their remaining NM GO Bonds to purchase a new electronic cataloging system to have an online presence and provide improved service. They also provide document service and free internet connectivity too.

3. In July, our Summer Reading Challenge was still going strong, and we rolled out more programs and events for the month of July.

a. Altogether, we had 342 participants that ranged from early childhood to adults.

b. We hosted 48 events.

c. Approximately 456 attended from all ages, but the majority being children's age level.

d. Around 30,000 minutes of reading was spent from May 30 to July 21.

4. In the last two weeks of July, the Main Library hosted Brian Young, Diné filmmaker, writer, and author to launch his second book, "Heroes of the Water Monster", thanks to the AZ Humanities, they had assisted in paying for advertising, catering, and providing books to give out during the Author's Reading and Visit. We also hosted Dr. Wendy Greyeyes, Diné professor at UNM and author, she read from her first book, "A History of Navajo Nation Education: Disentangling Our Sovereign Body", to which we had Dr. Shayla Yellowhair from Cognia Navajo Nation in moderating the event.

Challenges

1. Spending our general funds in our BU in a timely manner, having centralized information from OOC to transfer funds into the correct

subaccount. We missed the opportunity to use funds towards new and improved technology at all the Branch Libraries of the NNL.

2. We are having issues with the State of NM as far as spending special grants they send to us to use. They provide a short deadline and will not accommodate our internal issues of 164 and 6b, especially when using external subaccounts (K accounts) to be able to use how we need to. We hope that the President could address the issue with the State of NM so that we are able to do carryover or emphasize the deadline extension of expending funds.

Cognia Navajo Nation

30 Days

1. All Schools who are hosting their review have had their initial meetings with the lead evaluators.

60 Days

2. All schools who have a balance have been contacted and will be dropped in October from their accreditation if they do not pay by Oct. 10.

90 Days

3. Schools who will host in the next couple years will begin their orientation with our office.

NAVAJO NATION HEAD START

30 Days

1. Standing Rock Head Start Center was opened

on September 28, 2023. The Center was blessed and will open for services beginning October 2, 2023. The Certificate of Occupancy was issued in August 2023.

2. The Utah CACFP application was submitted through the 164 Review and Approval process prior to submission to Utah State Department of Education – Nutrition Services. Also, the New Mexico CACFP renewal application was completed and submitted through the 164 Review and Approval process.

3. Administrative Services content areas' Policies and Procedures were considered and approved by NHS Policy Council and Navajo Nation Board of Education. The approved policies and procedures were: (1) Health and Nutrition; (2) Human Resources; (3) Information Technology; (4) Transportation for Buses; (5) Transportation for Tribal Vehicles; and (6) Facilities. These six policies and procedures will be forwarded to the Office of Legislative Counsel to determine if they need to be approved by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee.

60 Days

4. The four (4) required reports for Navajo Head Start were completed and presented, considered, and approved by the Navajo Head Start Policy Council: (1) Program Information Reports – Head Start and Early Head Start; (2) Annual Community Assessment Update; (3) NHS Self-Assessment Report; and (4) NHS Annual Report. These four reports were for School Year 2022-2023.

5. On August 15, 2023 NHS Seasonal Centers re-opened for the new school year. There were a total of 56 Head Start center-based classrooms and 12 home-based programs in session in August 2023. For Early Head Start, there was 1 center-based

classroom and 4 home-based programs during August 2023.

6. Educational Services held its Annual Education meeting from August 6-10, 2023 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were about 160 staff (teachers, paraprofessional, and administrative staff) in attendance including Office of Head Start staff.

90 Days

7. There was a total of 26 Head Start center-based classrooms and 6 home-based programs in session in July 2023. For Early Head Start, there was 1 center-based classroom and 4 home-based programs during July 2023.

8. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee considered and approved Educational Services ERSEA Policies and Procedures and Family Engagement Policies and Procedures. With this, all five (5) content areas of Educational Services' policies and procedures are approved and updated.

9. The annual bus inspections were conducted and completed for school year 2023-2024 for 96 buses (68 new buses and 28 old buses). There were 7 buses that failed the annual inspection.

Challenges

1. Ordering and purchasing materials and supplies for maintenance and renovation of Head Start Centers. The procurement process is lengthy and cumbersome. These barriers cause delays in the reopening of the Centers.

2. Recruitment and hiring of direct service staff – teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and cooks. The hold-up is with the Department of Personnel Management – their assessment and referral of applications.

3. Meeting and adhering to deadlines in a timely manner for reports, permits, applications and the like.

Office of Diné School Improvement

30 Days

1. The research into the development of a Navajo Education Information System Database with Dine' School Accountability Program (DSAP) indicators continues to be received from the 24 schools that our program staff works with.

2. An inquiry and report on seeking and securing the Native American Student Information System (NASIS) as the Department of Dine' Education's (DODE) student database system/software since it's the program that our schools and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) works with already is being made. Rather than outsource to develop a customized database it is reasonable and practical to invest into the NASIS system since it is what is acceptable. This will cost approximately \$113,000 for 13, 000 students. At present there are 11,591 students attending Navajo grant/control schools. The Navajo Education Information System (NEIS) Data Warehouse to house student data derived from the Bureau of Indian Education (which utilizes NASIS), the State of New Mexico, the State of Arizona, and the State of Utah has not been formally established. Several discussions with the Navajo Nation's Department of Information Technology (NDIT) has led to a formal Inter-Departmental Memorandum of Agreement to have NDIT house our student data information, or Navajo Education Information System (NEIS).

3. In addition to securing this information it is also reasonable and practical to consider the Navajo Nation's Data Information Technology program (NDIT) to serve as DODE's Data Warehouse host. It is a Tier 3 Data Warehouse versus the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's (NTUA) Tier 4 Warehouse.

4. Data Agreements with the State of Utah was passed initially by the Utah State Board of Education's subcommittee on 6, 2023.. The agreement will be an addendum that reflects the current leadership of the Navajo Nation and the State of Utah.

5. As a result of the NNHSTF recommendations it has become apparent that the Navajo Nation, including the Department of Dine' Education, does not have an updated Emergency and Safety Management Plan. Hence, the Office of the President and Vice President initiated the Navajo Nation Emergency and Safety Team that is developing communication, training, and Navajo Nation Council was held and we are happy to learn that the Legislative Branch has already been moving to modernize their Safety Plan of Operation. The Speaker's Office has already scheduled training for members of the Navajo Nation Council. There is a need for an Emergency and Safety Management Team that reports directly to the President and Vice President as well as the Speaker. There exists an Emergency Management Commission that reports to the Speaker. ODSI has been tasked to lead the Executive Branch discussions and plans to formalize an Action Plan. Ms. Sonlatsa Jim has been designated from the Speaker's Office to work with our team.

6. The ODSI program has been tasked to help lead the State Education Agency movement on behalf of the Navajo Nation. The curriculum project and activities with the Penn State University

and Arizona State University are effective partnerships that build our capacity to become a SEA. The Navajo Character, Government, Language, Culture, and Philosophy curriculum content requires an Assessment rubric based on best-practice and acceptable methods (a Dine'-based algorithm) for student learning. The implementation of these teaching units and lessons need to include an acceptable assessment of student learning. An effective and reliable internet and website that allows teachers to access these Navajo-based curriculum units needs to be developed.

60 Days

7. ODSI has also been leading the formulation of a Mental Health Summit as a spin off from the Health and School Safety Summit. The University of New Mexico's Medical Center Director and CEO, Dr. Doug Zedonis, and the UNM-Gallup Chancellor, Dr. Sabrina Ezzell, have asked ODSI to assist in convening leadership from the Navajo Nation Department of Health, the President and/or the Vice President office, along with health care entities and leadership on the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni, to talk about medical degree programs that could be expanded from the main campus to the Gallup campus. This is a tremendous opportunity that allows pathway programs between public, BIE, and tribally-controlled schools for our students to consider and pursue health career opportunities. Two meetings have been held thus far. A third convening will occur in late September.

8. ODSI has also been tasked by Navajo Nation Vice President, Richelle Montoya, to chair the meetings with the leadership from the area school board associations. At the core of these discussions, the Re-Appportionment of School Boards is at the top of the concerns of the school boards. Furthermore, there seems

to be an interest to re-engage discussions, communication, and a better working relationship between DODE and the various school board associations.

90 Days

9. The Navajo Nation School Health and Safety Task Force (NNHSTF) has held numerous meetings and has convened private, tribally-controlled, grant, public, and higher education institutions, as well as health clinics and hospitals. A draft report on recommendations has been developed and will be finalized and provided to the Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation Council and its various committees, the Judicial Branch, the Navajo Nation Board of Education, and the general public (report will be posted on DODE website).

10. Work on the Dine' School Accountability Plan to update the academic indicators to meet today's needs and laws.

Challenges

1. The establishment of a Data Warehouse has been an on-going challenge for over 10 years to house and store data from the States of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, as well as the Bureau of Indian Education.
2. Laws or policy effective in collection and use of student data or aide in citing challenges in schools not meeting academic needs of the student.
3. Lack of qualified applicants with appropriate verification or licensure to fill vacant positions. With new direction emphasizing DSAP, specialized positions necessary in IT and data specialty, but Navajo Nation salaries not competitive.

DODE Information Technology

July

1. Affordable Connectivity Program recruitment drives: have families apply for 75 dollar subsidy for monthly internet connectivity.

August

4. IT Systems Hardening and Migration: Creating IT governance to support data ware house. – Contract established with Convergence

5. Cyber Security Training – Partnership with FEMA and University of Arkansas.

- a. Had various IT professionals from Executive, Legislative, Judicial branches including schools attend 3 day work shop.

September

7. Hiring of Principal Programmer to help support NEIS Data Warehouse Initiative

8. New DODE Website

Challenges

1. ROW challenge to support ERate fiber buildout to NN Chapters also known as “Community Libraries” and NHS Centers across NN.

- a. Need faster response for clearance to ensure we don’t lose funding from states of Az and NM.

Division of Economic Development

Division of Economic Development Administration

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

- Horseshoe Bend Development draft lease, project fully ready to move forward, figuring out what the NN will fund – seeking grants for infrastructure
- 5 year plan finalized and awaiting RDC review
- Lease with Zenni Homes finalized – expansion plans put together for an expanded operation.
- Settlement with antelope point finalized and 6 million infused to Navajo. Work on co-management initiated between the Division, Doj, Navajo Parks, and National Park Service..
- Staff moral improved via involvement of managers and wellness sessions. Organized several staff cookouts.

August

- Initiative around the railroad from Lechee to Shonto gets support from 4 of the chapters and an organization formed, initiative gains steam
- Secured remainder of funds for Shonto Hotel – Navajo AML 3.15

- Tuba City co investment agreement on new Hotel for pre development
- Agreement on lease rate with NNGE for Horseman's Lodge

September

- Strategic plan sessions for Division completed in line with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This serves as a basis for the revenue generation planning.
- Meeting with 4 chapters and next step around the NGS railroad. Biz planning work with Sunshine Railroad presented to the chapters.
- Revenue sharing agreement on Gouldings purchase - \$3.5 million per year after year 3
- FRF list updated for more ARPA funding
- Relaunch Business Hardship program prepared with \$5 million set aside to finish the program. Awaiting go ahead from Controller.

PROJECTS

- Strategic Planning and Revenue Plan creation
- Major developments at Chinle, Twin Arrows, Lechee, and Shiprock
- Grant writing coming out of our partnership with Department of Energy
- Leading major work at the NGS railroad, Horseshoe Bend, Co management of Lake Powell
- Hotel projects all across Navajoland
- Technical assistance mobilization to increase business retention
- Bank finance relationship building with Bank of Oklahoma

- SSBCI completion and relaunch of ARPA hardship

Business Regulatory Department

PROJECTS

Business Opportunity Act (NBOA) proposed amendments

Project Contact: Notah C. Silversmith,
Department Manager, notahcsilversmith@navajo-nsn.gov

The Navajo Business Opportunity Act (NBOA) proposed amendments. BRD hosted three public meetings in May, June, and July of 2021 via zoom. BRD in conjunction with the Department of Justice finished proposed amendments for the NBOA. Currently, Legislation 0203-23 addresses both the Navajo Business Opportunity Act (NBOA) and the Navajo Nation Procurement Act (NNPA) amendments. Currently, the legislation is with NABI and they are set to meet October 12 & 13, 2023. Thereafter it goes to Council Fall session. If all goes well they should be passed and implemented after the Fall Navajo Nation Council session.

Business Regulatory Department's (BRD) "Expenditure of Revenues" plan

Project Contact: Notah C. Silversmith,
Department Manager, notahcsilversmith@navajo-nsn.gov

Completed the 164 review process with the Business Regulatory Department's (BRD) "Expenditure of Revenues" plan. Currently, the plan will be sponsored by the Honorable Shawna Ann Claw of the 25th NNC for proposed legislation. The document will need both the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) and Budget and Finance (BNF) Committee's review and approval. The plan will be used to bring revenue back to BRD to assist with the administrative cost of the Navajo Corporations Code, and Weights and Measures program.

DED Website

Project Contact: Notah C. Silversmith,
notahcsilversmith@navajo-nsn.gov

Revamp of the Division of Economic Development website which includes BRD functions and the NBOA source listing for priority businesses. RFP was done and contract was awarded to Convergence Solutions a priority 1 business. The contract is currently at OOC for contract assignment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DED Website RFP

Accomplishment Date: 23-Sep

Request for Proposal (RFP) Division of Economic Development website. In conjunction with the Support Services Department's Ray Delgarito, an RFP was issued in the Navajo Times for work on the Division's website. We received a total of three proposals, two of which were from Priority one vendors. A selection was made and it was with Convergence Consulting Solutions, LLC, and

Priority One vendor with the Navajo Business Opportunity Act source listing.

BRD Operations and Business Registrations

Accomplishment Date: 23-Sep

Daily operations of BRD. Currently, the department is meeting all goals and objectives set in the department's form 2 for FY'23, and beyond. BRD is fully staffed and has a total of 9 positions for FY'23 which includes one Fiscal Recovery Fund position within BRD. Department Manager has set standards in customer service for our clientele. BRD staff work hard daily to get businesses registered with our office and review 164 documents promptly for their compliance with the Navajo Business Opportunity Act. Currently, BRD is at 85% expended for their FY'23 budget allocations. All budget allocations are accounted for and BRD should be 100% percent expended by September 30, 2023.

New Businesses registered for Quarter # 4 for Fiscal Year 2023.

1. Corporations Code: 130 new INCs/LLCs/Non-Profits
2. Source Listing: 16 new business registered

BRD Outreach on Evaluation Criteria

Accomplishment Date: 23-Sep

Outreach for NBOA Evaluation Criteria Training. BRD worked with the Department of Justice on clarification of the evaluation criteria for the Request for Proposal process. A determination was made on how we should properly proceed

with the evaluation of proposals when dealing with priority businesses and non-priority businesses. Based on the DOJ determination, BRD is conducting outreach presentations and sending out a reminder via NN email distribution as a reminder. BRD continues to offer presentations on this to Navajo Nation Chapters/Programs/Departments.

GOALS

Legislation number 0203-23 NBOA & NNPA

The Navajo Business Opportunity Act (NBOA) proposed amendments. BRD hosted three public meetings in May, June, and July of 2021 via zoom. BRD in Conjunction with the Department of Justice finished proposed amendments for the NBOA. Currently, Legislation 0203-23 addresses both the Navajo Business Opportunity Act (NBOA) and the Navajo Nation Procurement Act (NNPA) amendments. Currently, the legislation is with NABI and they are set to meet October 12 & 13, 2023. Thereafter it goes to Council Fall session. If all goes well they should be passed and implemented after the Fall Navajo Nation Council session.

Goal Target Date: 31-Oct-23

BRD Expenditures of Revenues Plan

Completed the 164 review process with the Business Regulatory Department's (BRD) "Expenditure of Revenues" plan. Currently, the plan will be sponsored by the Honorable Shawna Ann Claw of the 25th NNC for proposed legislation. The document will need both the Resources and Development Committee (RDC)

and Budget and Finance (BNF) Committee's review and approval. The plan will be used to bring revenue back to BRD to assist with the administrative cost of the Navajo Corporations Code, and Weights and Measures program.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

DED Website

Revamp of the Division of Economic Development website which includes BRD forms and the NBOA source listing for priority businesses. RFP was done and contract was awarded to Convergence Solutions a priority 1 business. The contract is currently at OOC for contract assignment in the 164 review process.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

Chinle Regional Business Development Office

PROJECTS

Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Business Site Lease

Project Contact: Anslem Harvey, aharvey@navajo-nsn.gov

NNOG business site lease expired and was under the Emergency Operating Agreement. After a new survey was contracted and issued, a new lease was negotiated and agreed upon between NN and NNOG. The new BSL is currently in the 164 process and is pending at the NNDOJ. CRBDO took the contracting initiatives to correct the old

survey and update it, our Office also assisted with updating the Environmental Assessment which supplemented the leasing packages. These are lengthy processes but were completed within a year. Expected outcome is to have NNOG operate on their legally designated premise for the next 25 years and to improve the sites in the amounts negotiated in the new lease. Improvements to the site is up to the business where they wish to improve. CRBDO shall document progress via receipts submittal from NNOG.

Taylor's Affordable Towing, LLC

Project Contact: Anslem Harvey, aharvey@navajo-nsn.gov

The company is operating under an Emergency Operating Agreement which is due to expire in February 2024. CRBDO completed the negotiation and compilation of documents to support a 164 Review of the new business site lease for Taylor's Affordable Towing, LLC. Only two documents are pending which are a procurement issue that has been resolved with the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission, we are awaiting a procurement clearance and also the Certificate of Good Standing from the Business Regulatory Department. Mr. Taylor has the documents; however, the family is going through quarantine and the 164 initiative is pending for now. The company employs 3 and will expand services after a permanent business site lease is issued.

Tachiinii Nursing Services, LLC

Project Contact: Anslem Harvey, aharvey@navajo-nsn.gov

Business Site Lease documents are pending approval at the Accounts Receivable. The AP Office is imposing a language to the lease terms in regard to rental payments after the CRBDO

has completed negotiations and client had signed the documents. CRBDO requested the DOJ to intervene and review the legality of AP's action. DOJ has not responded even after multiple follow ups. CRBDO is planning to retrieve the Request for Service and input the RFS through the new High Q system that DOJ has implemented. AP's signature on the 164 Review is pending DOJ's recommendation.

The new business site lease will designate land to the Tachiinii Nursing Services to construct their facility for a Nursing Services that will do home care providers within the Rock Point area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company

Accomplishment Date: 10/5/23

This effort began two years ago when NNOGC submitted their letter of interest to renew their lease. At that time, there were no documents to support their application such as the environmental assessment was missing and could not be recycled at NNEPA as they could not locate it. The legal survey was incomplete in its description and could not be used. The appraisal was outdated and needed to be contracted out. There was also a change in personnel so much training had to be provided to new staff. As with the Nation's 164 Review, there were much obstacles to overcome and the contracting process was lengthy in doing the three above. We are happy the lease package is in 164 Review now and hope it will make it through to the Approving Committee without any problems as all the reports are updated.

Tachiinii Nursing Services, LLC

Accomplishment Date: 6/1/23

The company went through the Navajo Business Certification process last year. They operated out of a church building in Rock Point. This year, they identified a site in the local area. CRBDO assisted with contracting land survey, Environmental Assessment study and an Appraisal. These took time due to limited funds being made available yearly to the RBDO.

Their business site lease package is under the 164 Review, currently at Accounts Payable pending a DOJ recommendation on "rental language" in the lease. CRBDO is working diligently to reroute the RFS through the High Q System the DOJ has recently implemented to track their reviews.

Business Certification Clients

Accomplishment Date: 08/28/23 through 10/18/23

- Yellow Hair Housing Construction
- Chee Welding Services
- Sharon's Food Vending
- James Home Care

Individuals and their partners came to our Office with their business ideas. We did a client intake assessment of their business credentials and explored business concepts in detail. Through appointments, emails, and follow up calls, these clients completed their business plans and business writing proposals. CRBDO assisted with business financial projections and other consulting as needed. Each business submitted their Certification applications with necessary documents to establish themselves as domestic business on the Navajo Nation. A total of eight (8) jobs were created in the Chinle Agency via the Navajo Nation Business Certification process.

GOALS

New Land Available-Feasibility Study

No further action is expected from the NNEPA for a business site that is available for leasing in Chinle. A feasibility study would best identify the commercial services needed at this site. This would be considered high priority due to its prime area that it is located and the chapter is always searching for land. The chapter should be withdrawing land for development, both for commercial and community, and not be competing with CRBDO over land. This analysis would determine the successful of projects that may be proposed. More funding would be helpful to perform land studies for leasing & further development.

Goal Target Date: 3/31/23

Canyon Country Car Wash, LLC

The company was formed under the Navajo business Certification with CRBDO assisting. The business site lease also was issued with CRBDO again assisting. Goal is to move current car wash that is situated on the Silver Coin business site to the new site of Canyon Country Car Wash (CCCW). Both businesses are owned by same person. Expected outcome is to have the funds approved that CRBDO has listed on its 5 Year Plan, ARPA listings, so we can assist the business to develop new 8 bay car wash. OPVP need to help push this projects when its comes up their agenda. The Nation could contribute with development.

Goal Target Date: 4/30/24

Church's Chicken

The business' building has deteriorated and needs replacement. ARPA funds were deemed ineligible, recently CRBDO resubmitted their application for reconsideration. Expected outcome is to have the funds approved that CRBDO has listed on its 5 Year Plan, ARPA listings, so we can assist the business to develop new 8 bay car wash. OPVP need to help push this projects when its comes up their agenda. This would be a contribution from the Nation on behalf of its people in the Chinle Agency. The business would be happy to have this assistance and would use funds wisely. There will be Navajo employees and the return in Sales tax to the Nation.

Goal Target Date: 3/31/23

Western Regional Business Development Office

PROJECTS

Proposed Tuba City Hotel

Project Contact: Edbert S. Little, eslittle@navajonnsn.gov

The project is 80 to 100 room hotel to be built on the former Davis Chevrolet business site. Five acres land is readily available for development, with additional land of three acres in the north side, adjacent to the five acres. Eight acres of land available for development in Tuba City AZ. The building is going be about forty thousand square feet. Included is going to be a conference room for meetings.

The project estimated cost is twenty-five million dollars. Western Regional Business Development Office to the initiative in applying for the American Restoration Plan Act/Fiscal Recovery funds in the amount of seventeen million dollars, and two fifty thousand dollars, and was deem eligible. WRBDO, SBDD, DED, PDD, AML, and ToNaaneesDizi Local Governance are going to submit a proposal to AML for three million dollars. ToNaaneesDizi Local Governance is allocating five hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars to for the project. The rest of the funding will be coming from NNDED sale tax dollar in the amount of three million one hundred and fifty-five dollars.

The expected outcome of the project will create twenty-six temporary jobs, and sixty permanent jobs. Tax dollars to be collected by the local government. Opportunity for growth near the development and the surrounding areas.

Chilchinbeto Convenient Store

Project Contact: Edbert Little, eslittle@navajonnsn.gov

Three acreages of land available for development, lot 1 and 2. Location of the site; The proposed convenient store with gas station, and laundromat will be located at northeast corner of Navajo Route 59 and Navajo Route 6510 in the small community of Chilchinbeto, Arizona.

The development's estimated cost is about six million dollars. Two million will come from sales tax dollars and the other three million will come from AML. One million one hundred fifty thousand from fiscal recovery funds/ ARPA. Contingency funds of five hundred sixty-six thousand dollars from general funds. Red Mesa Fuel and Convenience Retailer will be the

operator of the convenient store and will assist with plans of the development.

The Convenient store will bring in ten jobs during the construction of the convenient store and twenty new jobs will be created after the completion of the convenient store.

Demolish, cleanup, Tseyi, Black Mesa, Cow Springs, and Van's

Project Contact: Edbert Little, eslittle@navajonnsn.gov

Four projects along highway 160, Anasazi Inn, Tseyi, Black Mesa Shopping Center, Black Mesa, Cows Spring Trading Post, Tonalea, and Van's Trading Post/Kerley Valley Trading Post, Tuba City. Tsegi was still operating when the restaurant burned down, Black Mesa Shopping Center closed, Cow Springs closed, and Van's/Kerley Valley Trading Post closed.

Fiscal Recovery Funds/ARPA. Tseyi-Anasazi Restaurant and motel (\$460,000), Black Mesa Shopping Center (\$731,031.00), Cow Springs Trading Post (\$460,000.00), and Vans Trading Post (\$839,500.00) These projects went through vetting process with NNDOJ and were considered eligible for the FRF/ARPA.

After cleanup, Tseyi Anasazi Inn, Restaurant, Black Mesa Shopping Center, and Van's/Kerley Valley Trading posts are going to be redeveloped. Cow Springs Trading Post will not be redeveloped. The redevelopment and cleanup will create 20 jobs, redevelopment will create more jobs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Coppermine presentation and assistance with Land Designation

Accomplishment Date: 11-Sep-23

The presentation was during a regularly schedule planning meeting. Reported to the community members and local tribal officials. Question on who does the cover letter, who passes the chapter resolution at the chapter meeting. When land withdrawal was is completed? CLUP-C can request the Chapter to pass a resolution in support of the land with withdrawal the CLUP is working on. That was a discussion and correction had to made by the chapter to have the chapter official entertain the resolution for two hundred fifty acres of land for development.

Assisted them with their question on the processes of land designation. Consent forms to be signed by the grazers, environmental assessment to be completed, arch clearance, and the legal description of the land to be completed upon submission of the documents. When an incomplete paperwork is submitted to land department it's not going to be process. If the land is to be used for development as soon as possible. All clearance should be submitted and the land for development should be made ready for use right away.

Presentation Business Site Leasing

Accomplishment Date: 26-Jul-23

Did a presentation for Choice Humanitarian on business site leasing. Twenty-five participants attended the Business Site Leasing power point presentation on Zoom. Question that was ask were on expanding your business when you

are operating a home base business. Expansion would require more land to grow your vegetable. Expansion of your agribusiness would require lease to take up more land unless there is an existing cornfield nearby.

GOALS

Tuba City Hotel

Environmental assessment to be completed, architectural and engineering design to be completed. Pre-Development to begin in January 2024 and to spend the money. Start the work 2024, Contracts going through the 164 processes if everything goes as planned. Construction to become complete by June 2025.

New hotel in Tuba City by June 2024, with 80 to 100 rooms depending on what is chosen by the local governance. Meeting rooms for conferences, long term stay for those that want to stay in Tuba City a little longer. Swimming pool to swim in. Other developments that will follow the established new hotel development. RV park.

Goal Target Date: Jun-25

Chilchinbeto Convenient Store

The development of the Chilchinbeto Convenient Store, gas station, and laundry mat. Environmental assessment to be redone to submit the Proposal to AML and the architectural design and engineering to be completed between November and December 2023. Development of the area to start January 2024, and contract to going through the 164 processes during March, April, and May 2024. Project to be completed by June 2025.

A new c-store will bring more tourist to the area, new business will be added on, truck stop, deli, post office, and what the growing community will need to better their future. Land for development is sitting to the east of this development. Will bring ten contracts work to the area and upon completion the area will have 20 more jobs added to the community.

Goal Target Date: Jun-25

Eastern Regional Business Development Office

PROJECTS

Pueblo Pintado C-Store

Project Contact: Edgar Tohtsoni, etohtsoni@navajo-nsn.gov

The convenience store operator has finished all electrical connections and hired all necessary personnel to being the convenience store operations; however, Eastern Regional Business Development Office and the lessee/operator is waiting for Department of Health's health inspector to conduct a thorough inspection per Navajo Nation laws. The operator was informed "We will schedule you when we schedule you". The lessee/operator found this to be very discouraging. The Eastern Regional Business Development Office, Senior Economic Development Specialist, Mr. Edgar Tohtsoni, emailed the contact at Department of Health. As of today, no response has been received.

Crownpoint C-Store

Project Contact: Stephany Skeets, stephany.skeets@navajo-nsn.gov

In the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2023, the Navajo Nation and the lessee mutually terminated a business site lease due to outstanding issues that were exacerbated by COVID-19. This strategy was to "turn over a new leaf", so to speak, and subsequently to start a new business site lease. Currently, The Eastern Regional Business Development Office, Senior Economic Development Specialist, Ms. Stephany Skeets, and the lessee are waiting a few key documents from the outside financing institution before initiating a 164(B) for a new business site lease. During the lease termination meetings, that was one of the conditions that was required by the Navajo Nation.

Crownpoint Hotel

Project Contact: Stephany Skeets, stephany.skeets@navajo-nsn.gov

In the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2023, the Navajo Nation and lessee mutually terminated a business site lease due to outstanding issues that were exacerbated by COVID-19. This strategy is to "turn over a new leaf", so to speak, and subsequently to start a new business site lease. The Eastern Regional Business Development Office, Senior Economic Development Specialist, Ms. Stephany Skeets, is working with Honorable Simpson to secure additional funding for the Crownpoint Hotel. The lessee has secured outside partial financing. The Eastern Regional Business Development Office is waiting for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice to complete review of the submitted AIA Construction Contract, it has been with them for several months now.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Three Chapters Market/Economic Feasibility Study

Accomplishment Date: Ongoing

Eastern Regional Business Development Office contracted with Indian Affiliates to conduct a three (3) chapters market and economic feasibility study for the following chapters: Baca/Prewitt, Church Rock, and Rock Springs Chapters. The studies. It was determined that the Baca/Prewitt location would be ideal for a mix-use c-store and a RV Park with an immediate and long-term success. It was determined that a state-of-the-art physical therapy and a mix-use development would be ideal for the Church Rock site. Also, Indian Affiliates determined that a mix-use development with a c-store and a laundromat would be ideal for the Rock Springs site.

Fort Wingate Parcel 15 Market Feasibility Study

Accomplishment Date: Ongoing

The Eastern Regional Business Development Office was assisted by the Northwest New Mexico Council of Government with over eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000+) of United States Economic Development Administration to conduct a market feasibility study for the Fort Wingate Parcel 15. The idea is to analyze the potential of re-purposing properties, facilities, and infrastructure for redevelopment for economic, industrial, commercial, retail, data, and other opportunities. The report is meant to concentrate on those properties that have the greatest short-term and long-term potential and

least bureaucratic and environmental barriers. The market feasibility study determined that a travel center would be ideal; however, must be accompanied by future phased developments to ensure a long-term sustainable and successful cash flow.

Indianpreneurship

Accomplishment Date: Ongoing

The Eastern Regional Business Development Office, Senior Economic Development Specialist, Mr. Edgar Tohtsoni, is conducting a 5-week series of the Indianpreneurship fall workshops. The series has a multitude of topics that help new business owners establish their business “tool box”. The topics include:

Introduction to Small Business Development. Overview of business development. Building your business “tool box”. Development of your business idea. “Is your business idea feasible?” How to Market Your Product/Service. Introduction to marketing. The Five P’s of Marketing and Customer Service Pricing Theory. Business Financial Management. Keeping track of your business \$\$\$. Cash-in & Cash-out. Understanding financial management, basic recordkeeping, bookkeeping tracking cost and cash. How to Development, Write, and Produce a Successful Business Plan. Why and how to write a business plan. The importance of a business plan and its contents. Business Tax Issues. Responsibilities and obligations regarding and requirements. Federal and New Mexico taxes. Navajo Nation taxes – Office of the Navajo Tax Commission. Tribal Procurement Opportunities – Navajo Nation Business Regulatory Department. How to do business with the Navajo Nation. Federal Procurement Opportunities- 8A, HubZone, etc. How to do Business with the Federal Government.

GOALS

Pueblo Pintado C-Store

Currently, the lessee is operating on an EOA (emergency operating agreement) that the Eastern Regional Business Development Office issued. An emergency operating agreement was issued to future protect the Navajo Nation’s convenience store asset. The convenience store was beginning to see vandalism; therefore, the Eastern Regional Business Development Office sought out an operator for that convenience store. The Eastern Regional Business Development Office selected a lessee through a bidding process. The Eastern Regional Business Development Office’s goal for the first quarter of fiscal year 2024 is to issue a permanent business site lease for the lessee and to have the convenience store fully operational. The Eastern Regional Business Development Office requests that the NN OPVP inform the Department of Health Division Director that the lessee is waiting for a scheduled inspection date.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Winter Indianpreneurship

The Eastern Regional Business Development Office, Senior Economic Development Specialist, Mr. Edgar Tohtsoni, wishes to conduct more 5-week series of the Indianpreneurship for the winter workshops. The series has a multitude of topics that help new business owners establish their business “tool box”. The topics include:

Introduction to Small Business Development. Overview of business development. Building your business “tool box”. Development of your business idea. “Is your business idea feasible?” How to Market Your Product/Service. Introduction

to marketing. The Five P's of Marketing and Customer Service Pricing Theory. Business Financial Management. Keeping track of your business \$\$\$. Cash-in & Cash-out. Understanding financial management, basic recordkeeping, bookkeeping tracking cost and cash. How to Development, Write, and Produce a Successful Business Plan. Why and how to write a business plan. The importance of a business plan and its contents. Business Tax Issues. Responsibilities and obligations regarding and requirements. Federal and New Mexico taxes. Navajo Nation taxes – Office of the Navajo Tax Commission. Tribal Procurement Opportunities – Navajo Nation Business Regulatory Department. How to do business with the Navajo Nation. Federal Procurement Opportunities- 8A, HubZone, etc. How to do Business with the Federal Government.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Church Rock C-Store

The Eastern Regional Business Development Office issued a business site lease to a convenience store owner/operator. The goal for the first quarter of fiscal year 2024 is for the lessee to complete gathering the necessary equipment to initiate the construction phase. The lessee needs to locate and procure a transformer, the transformer must meet the City of Gallup's electrical requirements. The prefabricated convenience store is ready to be assembled and a construction contractor has been selected. The lessee has acquired most of the funding from the Navajo Nation and outside lending institutions.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Shiprock Regional Business Development Office (RBDO)

PROJECTS

- (Projects available via program request)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Trainings

Accomplishment Date: Q4, 2023

- 1. NN Economic Summit – Leasing Authority (06/20/2023)
- 2. NN Economic Summit – How to Lease NN Land for Business (06/21/2023)
- 3. Fort Defiance Chapter – Leasing Authority (07/12/2023)
- 4. Fort Defiance Chapter – BSL Process (07/12/2023)
- 5. RBDO, Shiprock, NM – BSL Process (07/27/2023)
- 6. Dineh Chamber of Commerce – How to apply for a Navajo Nation Business Site Lease (08/16/2023)
- 7. RBDO, Shiprock, NM – BSL Process (09/12/2023)

Lease Transactions

Accomplishment Date: Q4, FY 2023

- 1. Doc#020687, New Lease, Red Mesa Trading Co., Inc. dba:
- 2. Doc #020695, Option to Renew Lease No. SR-99-158.

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- 3. Doc #020831, New Lease, Wells Fargo Bank, NA
- 4. Adrian Tutt Revocable Use Permit
- 5. Northern Navajo Nation Fair Revocable Use Permit

Business Plans, Certifications, Corporations

Accomplishment Date: Q4, FY 2023

- 1. Rene Jordan, 06/16/2023 - Certification
- 2. Marietta Chee, 07/26/2023 - Certification
- 3. The Electrical Construction Contractor – Foreign LLC Registration
- 4. The Electrical Construction Contractor – Certification Registration
- 5. TNezz – OSERS Business Plan – Leathersmith
- 6. DCody – OSERS Business Plan - Beadsmith

Client Referrals to Funding Resources

Accomplishment Date: Q4, FY2023

- 1. Walter Begay, 09/05/2023
- 2. TNezz – OSERS Grant \$2,487.55
- 3. DCody – OSERS Grant \$2,105.19

Jobs Created

Accomplishment Date: Q4, FY2024

- 1. 4 - Temporary Construction Jobs (Shiprock One) – Restaurant Renovation
- 2. 7 - Temporary Construction Jobs (Red Mesa Sheepsprings Express)
- 3. 2 – Permanent Jobs (Red Mesa Sheepsprings Express)
- 4. 3 - Temporary Fair Jobs (Adrian Tutt)

- 5. 20 - Temporary Fair Jobs (Northern Navajo Nation Fair)

Jobs Retained

Accomplishment Date: Q4, FY2024

- 1. 2 - Jobs (Red Mesa Sheepsprings Express) – New Lease
- 2. 5 - Jobs (Red Mesa Shiprock) – Option to Renew
- 3. 10 - Jobs (Wells Fargo) – New Lease

GOALS

Lease Transactions

a. Goals for Q4

- 1. ONMIKE Enterprise, Inc, dba: Burger King – New Lease
- 2. McDonald's Corporation – Lease Modification
- 3. Shiprock Windows & Glass, New Lease
- 4. Virgil L. Kirk, Jr., New Lease
- 5. Frank's Grocery Store & Fina – Cancellation - BIA Lease No. SR-03-180
- 6. Sanostee Trading Post (former site), Land transfer
- 7. Newcomb TP (former) – Land transfer
- 8. Caroline Russel, Lease Termination
- 9. William Badoni, Lease Termination
- 10. Rena Martin, New Lease
- 11. Virginian Johnson, New Lease
- 12. NN Oil & Gas, New Lease

Goal Target Date: Q1, FY2024

Trainings and Workshops

- Indianpreneurship Training
- Chapter Leasing and Leasing Authority Workshops

Goal Target Date: Q1, FY2024

Hire Staff

Hire staff - Senior Economic Development Specialist, Economic Development Specialist and Senior Office Specialist

Goal Target Date: Q1, FY2024

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Protection Agency Administration

Administrative orders: no new Administrative or Enforcement orders were issued this quarter; updates/summaries of current pending orders are included in the Department/Program sections. For example, Surface and Groundwater Protection Department reports: "Sixteen (16) NOVs were sent to noncomplying public water systems for various violations including bacte sampling, public notice requirements."

Report and record sharing with state agencies: July 12, 2023, NNEPA Executive Director and Department Managers met with New Mexico Environmental Department leadership to re-

establish relationships on programmatic work affecting NMED and NNEPA. Commitment was made to continue to meet periodically.

Tohajiilee water supply project: see the NNEPA Surface and Groundwater Protection Department-Public Water Supply Supervision Program report section below for more information. NNEPA continues to monitor the Tohajiilee Water Blending Study, which outlines the requirements for water being piped from the City of Albuquerque, NM to Tohajiilee and the efforts to manage disinfection by-products.

ARPA septic tank installations: NNEPA ARPA staff coordinate the regulatory review over ARPA funded projects, e.g. waterline extensions, septic tank installations and electrical line extensions. Conducted 91 field visits across multiple Chapters; attended 10 meetings/technical reviews of ARPA projects. See Surface and Groundwater Protection Department report below.

Statuses of NNEPA K-accounts: Please see the 4th Quarter NNEPA Budget Status Report in Part 1 which includes all U.S. EPA federal grants (i.e. K-accounts).

Timelines of contract years, project years, fiscal years, calendar year relating to NNEPA: NNEPA contracts and grants are aligned with the federal government and Navajo Nation's fiscal year timeframe, with start dates of October 1st and ending dates of September 30th; this also extends to all federal and Navajo Nation reporting periods.

Comments submitted: On September 1, 2023, NNEPA Executive Director submitted his nomination to serve on the USEPA Government Advisory Committee to the U.S. Representative to the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (GAC-CEC). This

group works to advance environmental and economic priorities involved with international trade and climate change under the overarching United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement. A decision on the appointment should be made by November 2023.

July 14, 2023, NNEPA coordinated a meeting between President Nygren and the Red Water Pond Road Community Association leaders to discuss their concerns with the clean-up of the Northeast Churchrock Uranium mine and the issue of re-newed Uranium mining activities. President Nygren provided assurance to maintain the position against re-newed Uranium mining and discuss the draft Executive Order 04-2023, Addressing the Impacts of Uranium Mines and Advocating for Immediate Action to Remediate Said Impacts. On July 15, 2023, Executive Director represented President Nygren at the Commemoration Event at Red Water Pond Road provided commitments to work together to improve the environment and public health of community members impacted by Northeast Churchrock and Quivira Mines. Invitations to Red Water Pond Road Community Association and Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining organization were presented to attend the signing ceremony for E.O. 04-2023. President Nygren signed E.O. 04-2023 on July 17, 2023, which included the appointment of Mr. Jonathan Perry, as Volunteer Advisor.

NNEPA Executive Director and Superfund Program presented at the Thoreau Chapter house on August 6, 2023, on the issue of Transport of abandoned uranium mine waste, and the proposal to dispose of Quivira AUM waste at Red Rocks Landfill in Thoreau, NM. Discussion took place all day and presentations were made by USEPA, State of New Mexico, NN Council Delegates, Thoreau Chapter officials and members of the Red Water Pond Road

Community Association. Commitments were made to conduct follow-up site visits to the Red Rock Landfill for NN Council Delegates, Thoreau Chapter officials and Red Water Pond Road Community members.

August 7, 2023, President Nygren signed legislation #0033-23 into law and created the San Juan River Mitigation Fund. The law (CJY-60-23) provides NNEPA with the responsibilities to establish an Expenditure Plan to implement the unrestricted settlement funds on projects that benefit the people who use the river and projects that will benefit the environment that was impacted by the Gold King Mine spill.

August 22, 2023, President Nygren and NNEPA met with the leadership of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to highlight the need to improve our working relationships and to request the USNRC to notify the Navajo Nation regarding any attempts by any entities to pursue licensure for new Uranium mining activities near Navajo Nation lands.

NNEPA provided written reports to the Ft. Defiance Agency Council on July 7, 2023; to the Western and Northern Agency Councils on September 15, 2023. This quarter the Executive Director attended the Ft. Defiance and Western Agency Council meetings, and the Surface and Groundwater Protection Department Manager attended the Northern Agency Council meeting.

Preliminary challenges to ARPA expenditures: As part of NNEPA's ongoing evaluation of its ARPA allocations and the remaining time in the encumbrance cycle, provide a brief one-page summary of preliminary challenges to successful completion of expenditure plans specific to NNEPA for OPVP. NNEPA ARPA budget was appropriated at the \$8,093,953 amount. It currently is 11% expended, with 89% funds

remaining. The largest line item in the budget is for Contracting. There is currently one \$330,000 contract in place which will expire on September 30, 2023, and NNEPA will not develop any additional contracts. NNEPA will re-budget an estimated total amount of \$4.5 million for use by other Divisions in need or ARPA funds. The current staffing will be revised to provide Cost Sharing support to additional existing full-time positions, and one new vacant position will be re-classified from a Remedial Project Manager to a Sr. Programs and Projects Specialist, with concomitant salary adjustment.

Website development timeline: There were no plans to update the NNEPA program websites this quarter.

Air & Toxics Department

The Air & Toxics Department (ATD) is comprised of the following environmental programs and research projects: Air Quality Control Program, Operating Permit Program, Air Monitoring Section, Pesticides Program, and Radon Program.

All ATD programs are responsible for protecting environment and human health through regulation, public outreach, compliance and technical assistance, monitoring, proposing legislation, assessments, studies and, analysis of proposals with potential to impact the Navajo Nation. The primary laws, rules and regulations that ATD programs are responsible to uphold are the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act, Navajo Nation Air Quality Control Prevention & Control Act, Operating Permit Regulations, Navajo Nation Open Burn Regulations and Navajo Nation Pesticide Act. Changes to existing Navajo Nation rules and regulations, including amendments to Title V operating permits, require

a process that involves notification to the public. The public notification process is required under the Clean Air Act (CAA) (for operating permits) and the Navajo Nation Uniform Regulations: Permit Review, Administrative Enforcement Orders, Hearings & Rulemakings (NN Environmental Acts).

Air & Toxics Department

- Program Goal statements

The Air & Toxics Department (ATD) is comprised of the following environmental programs and research projects: Air Quality Control Program, Operating Permit Program, Pesticides Program, and Radon Program.

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1. Uniform Program Quarterly Report (Part I)

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1. July 2023, the NNEPA departments attended an introductory meeting with representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and exchanged updates to topics being addressed by the NNEPA and the NMED, including liquid waste (septage), mapping, partnerships, climate change, CPRG grant, emissions, health impact assessments at O&G facilities, uranium, solid waste, surface and ground water, and identification of action items for subsequent meetings tailored at partnerships and focused on addressing common goals and needs.

2. July 2023, per the instructions of the Executive Director, revisited the Form 2s for ATD business units, and made changes to the proposed FY 2024 General Funds Form 2s to reflect the Ny-gren/Montoya priorities. Form 2s for external funds were not modified, as the tasks for external grants/programs are negotiated with USEPA and any significant changes in deliverables would require amendments to the grant conditions.

3. Completed 36 environmental reviews in the GLDD prismesolutions.net electronic database. Participation in the reviews assists with the effective monitoring of potential emissions and pollution sources that pose risks to human health and environment. Three (3) projects were subject to compliance with Tribal Minor New Source Review Permitting Program under 40 CFR 49.152. The project proponents were notified that the projects would need to comply with Tribal Minor New Source Review Permitting Program under 40 CFR 49.152, including that the project contrac-tor(s) should complete the appropriate documents and, if required, obtain a permit before beginning construction. It was further recommended that the UTDOT, and/or its contractors also provide NNEPA OPP Program with a notice of their application to USEPA Region 9.

4. Received and completed three (3) DHUD, 24 CFR, Part 50 environmental reviews for Air Quality, for a DHUD funded projects at Fort Defiance Chapter, Newcomb Chapter, and Teesto Chapter, which require compliance documentation for applicants accessing DHUD Section 184 Native American home mortgage loans. Reviewed an incoming request from the DED for Compliance Determination for the NNOGC Running Horse Services Propane Facility Project and requested additional information in order to finalize a compliance determination.

5. September 14, 2023 , forwarded an update report to be included in the NNEPA report to the Western Agency Council meeting at Coal Mine Chapter on September 16, 2023.

6. September 14, 2023, forwarded an update report to be included in the NNEPA report to the Northern Agency Council meeting at Upper Fruitland Chapter on September 16, 2023. H.

7. Completed five (5) qualification assessments in the 4th quarter. Vacancies continue to be advertised through the DPM JVA. Two (2) referrals were forwarded to the respective department, three (3) individuals did not meet established minimum qualifications for the positions applied for.

8. September 2023, received updated information related to decommissioning activities at the former NGS site. Demobilization is expected to begin October 4, 2023, including working on creating temporary access to make-up ponds that will be used for on-going dust control. Fleets are leaving the site, temporary office trailers will use generators for power.

Pesticide Enforcement

- Program goal statements, performance measures/objectives needed:

The Navajo Pesticide Program, through a Cooperative Agreement with USEPA, supports general implementation of the provisions and requirements of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Section 23(a)(1) of FIFRA, as amended, authorizes USEPA to enter into Cooperative Agreements with states and Indian tribes and delegates to them the authority to cooperate in the enforcement of the Act, and Section 23(a)(2) provides for assistance to tribes that enter into cooperative agreements for certification and training programs.

The Navajo Nation Pesticide Program has had a Cooperative Agreement with USEPA to assist in the enforcement of FIFRA since 1983. The Navajo Nation Pesticide Act and Regulations provide the NNEPA with broad authorities over pesticides within the Navajo Nation. Funding from Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) are combined into one single Cooperative Agreement for the Navajo Pesticide Program.

The Navajo Nation EPA Pesticide Program conducts approximately 100 FIFRA inspections per year under federal authorities. Inspection types include Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Use, Marketplace and Certified Applicator Records. Inspection reports are submitted to USEPA Region 9 and enforcement action is taken by EPA when appropriate.

Twenty (20) Federal, Insecticide, Fungicide & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) compliance inspections were completed during the fourth quarter of FY2023. Compliance inspections (Non-

Agricultural and Agricultural) completed are as follows:

A. Non-Agricultural-Use Compliance inspections

Fifteen (15) Non-agricultural Use Inspections were conducted at the following sites/locations:

- 1. Tuba City NTUA District's Potable Water Chlorination to control pathogen in Coppermine, AZ.
- 2. Tuba City Public School Facility Maintenance's Potable Water Chlorination to control pathogens at Gray Mountain Elementary Navajo School in Gray Mountain, AZ.
- 3. Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) herbicide application of SR87 ROW to control invasive species at Dilkon, AZ.
- 4. Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) herbicide application of SR160 ROW to control invasive species at Longhouse Valley, AZ.
- 5. PestMaster Services performed structural control; applied insecticide to control insect pests at Ft. Defiance Community Health Representative office building in Ft. Defiance, AZ.
- 6. Toadlena Community School's Potable Water Chlorination to disinfect drinking water at the schools' water treatment facility.
- 7. Chilchimbeto Community School's Potable Water Chlorination to control pathogens at Well #13A.
- 8. Kayenta Boarding School's Potable Water Chlorination to control pathogens at Well #3.
- 9. Swim Pool Water Chlorination to control pathogens at Hampton Inn in Kayenta, AZ.
- 10. Swim Pool Water Chlorination to

control pathogens at Holiday Inn in Chinle, AZ.

- 11. PestMaster Services performed structural control; applied insecticide and rodenticide to control insect and rodent pests at the Window Rock Airport office building and airplane-hanger.
- 12. Swim Pool Water Chlorination to control pathogens at Navajoland Inn in St. Michaels, AZ.
- 13. Catholic Mission School's Potable Water Chlorination to control pathogens in St. Michaels, AZ.
- 14. Hunter's Point Boarding School's Potable Water Chlorination to control pathogens at well #418.
- 15. Swim Pool Water Chlorination at Holiday Inn to control pathogens in Canyon De Chelly, AZ.

No FIFRA violations were noted during the Non-Agricultural-use inspection.

The non-agricultural compliance assessments entail the following: pesticide storage requirements, adulterated & defaced pesticide products, pesticide safety (PPE), management practice of pesticides, Record Keeping, calibration for dilution mix, product registration status, target pest, applicators certification/license, transport vehicle safety requirements and suspended & canceled pesticide products.

B. Agricultural Use Inspections

Five (5) Agricultural-Use Inspections were conducted at the following sites at NAPI:

- 1. Wilbur Ellis Company's (WEC) aerial fungicide application to control fungus pumpkin crop at NAPI field #947A.
- 2. Wilbur Ellis Company's (WEC) aerial

fungicide application to control fungal rot on potato plant at NAPI field #154A.

- 3. Wilbur Ellis Company's (WEC) aerial fungicide application to control fungus on potato plant at NAPI field #140B.
- 4. Wilbur Ellis Company's (WEC) ground herbicide application to control weeds (invasive species) in the bean crop in field #823A.
- 5. Wilbur Ellis Company's (WEC) ground herbicide application to control weeds (invasive species) in the bean crop in field #727AA.

No FIFRA violations were noted during the Agricultural-use inspection.

The agricultural compliance assessments covered the following: whether the applicator is appropriately certified and licensed; if the dilution mix and application rates are consistent with product label instructions, and if the product was used for the correct target pest, proper personal protective equipment (PPE) used during mixing/loading and use, Worker Protection Standards (WPS) requirements complied with, application records maintained, pesticide storage requirements, adulterated & deface pesticide products, pesticide safety, and management practice of pesticides, Record Keeping, calibration for dilution mix, suspended & canceled pesticide products and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Indoor Radon Program

Program goal statement

The goal of the Radon Program is to reduce radon risk and to gather people, organizations and resources from among government, and non-

government to put risk reduction strategies into action. These actions involve outreach education, testing, providing resources for testing through training to conduct testing, radon resistant construction, use of radon resistant systems to reduce indoor radon levels, and engage with and support other Radon stakeholders.

The Navajo Radon Program continues to be relied upon as the sole Navajo Nation resource for Radon education, testing, measurement, and mitigation. Every school on the Navajo Nation has been tested, including child care facilities, Head Start centers, senior citizen centers, and testing of public buildings continues. Mitigation has been encouraged and facilitated through testing and mitigation workshops held in conjunction with hands-on mitigation of structures.

All Navajo Nation Chapters should be tested for Radon. Free radon test kits are available from the Radon Program (928-871-7703/6790/7800).

1. In collaboration with the CDC, and supported by the USEPA, the program is organizing Radon data collected from areas on the Navajo Nation, and working to share Navajo Radon data to the CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network through use of geocoding. For over 20 years, the CDC's tracking program has collected, integrated, and analyzed non-infectious disease and environmental data from nationwide partners to provide a set of health, exposure, and hazards data to enable reporting of insights drawn from the data, and visualize patterns, and other important planning tools to use in addressing public health and improving health measures

2. Visited a total of 12 Chapters to disseminate IAQ information such as Radon, particulate matter from burning wood/coal, open burn

regulations, and the benefits of using an air purifier.

3. Follow-up discussions with the NAIHS Office of Environmental Health regarding radon test kits to be provided to offices that review compliance with the Model Tribal Head Start Health and Safety Code, September 2000. In some instances, code compliance employees will identify lack of documentation for radon testing at facilities such as head start centers, and compliance employees will request testing by the Radon Program, or provide test kits (provided by the Radon Program) to the affected facility in order for the facility to meet compliance with the Code.

Air Quality Control Program

Program goal statement

The Navajo Nation Air Monitoring Section is responsible for operating and maintaining the Air Quality Control Program (AQCP) ambient air monitoring network on the Navajo Nation. The AQCP uploads collected air quality data to U.S. EPA's Air Quality Systems (AQS) database, which is then used to determine compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect human health and the environment.

The U.S. EPA regulates criteria pollutants using the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which establish ambient levels for each criteria pollutant using health and welfare-based criteria. There are two series of standards. As per the CAA §109(b), the "primary" standards are designed to provide an adequate margin of safety that is essential to protecting public health. The "secondary" standards are intended to protect public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects associated with the presence of a

criteria pollutant in the ambient air. The primary standards protect public health and secondary standards protect public welfare by preventing damage to property such as farm crops and buildings, visibility impairment in national parks and wilderness areas, and the protection of ecosystems.

The six criteria pollutants are:

1. Carbon monoxide (CO)
2. Lead (Pb)
3. Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) with nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) used as the indicator compound
4. Ozone (O₃)
5. Particulate matter ≤ 10 micrometers (PM₁₀) and ≤ 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5})
6. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)

The goal of the AQCP is to continue Ambient Air Data Collection: PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, Ozone, NO_x, SO₂, and Meteorological data in fulfilling the central purpose of receiving CAA Section 105 funding. This includes conducting Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) checks for gaseous analyzers and PM₁₀ monitors, maintaining Ambient Air Monitors and Analyzers, uploading Ambient Air Data Reporting to USEPA, schedule and complete annual independent audits for gaseous analyzers, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and meteorological monitors.

On the Navajo Nation, the air monitoring network maintained by the AQCP, collects gaseous, particulate and meteorological data that are uploaded to the Air Quality System database as part of its structure to maintaining a highly

reliable, continuous ambient air monitoring network and/or special studies that meet the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), particularly but not limited to Title 40, Part 58, Appendix A of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A).

The Air Quality System (AQS) contains ambient air pollution data collected by EPA, state, local, and tribal air pollution control agencies from over thousands of monitors. AQS also contains meteorological data, descriptive information about each monitoring station (including its geographic location and its operator), and data quality assurance/quality control AQS data is used to:

- • assess air quality,
- • assist in attainment/non-attainment designations,
- • evaluate State Implementation Plans for non-attainment areas,
- • perform modeling for permit review analysis, and
- • prepare reports for Congress as mandated by the CAA.

No areas of the Navajo Nation are in non-attainment for the NAAQS.

o Accompanied USEPA enforcement and compliance inspector on their Clean Air Act inspection of Transwestern Pipeline – Leupp Compressor Station, El Paso Natural Gas – White Rock and Dilkon Compressor Stations to verify that the facilities are in compliance with their respected Title V permit terms and conditions.

o Completed the last 2021 compliance inspection report for El Paso Natural Gas – Dilkon Compressor Station, the facility is following its respective Title V permit terms and conditions.

o Completed eight (8) 2022 Annual Compliance Inspections for the following Title V facilities: El Paso Natural Gas Compressor Stations (White Rock, Gallup, Window Rock, Navajo Dilkon and Leupp), Transwestern Pipeline - Leupp, and Western Refinery. All facilities are following their respective Title V permit terms and conditions.

o Attended and observed four (4) performance tests for the El Paso Natural Gas Compressor Stations. Each of the facilities performance test results show their respective emission units performing under their permit emission limits, thus are following their respective Title V permits.

o Navajo Nation Resource Development Work Session: An in-person working session was conducted on July 6, 2023 to provide the committee members an opportunity to better understand the proposed Minor Source Program Regulations for future approval.

o The AQCP and other NNEPA programs met with the representatives from the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) for a meet and greet and to discuss partnerships and coordination. The AQCP and NMED Air Division will coordinate and share information on ambient air monitoring and emission data.

o Update call with USEPA Region 9 (funding agency) on July 14, 2023. The program provided an update on workplan tasks and expenditures. The program is meeting the goals and objectives.

o US EPA Region 9 and El Paso Natural Gas – Kinder Morgan Company: A virtual meeting was conducted on September 11, 2023 to discuss EPNG request to remove the startup and shut-down excessive emission clause in the Window Rock PSD permit. US EPA Region 9 permit update: A virtual meeting was conducted on July 19, 2023 and September 27, 2023 to update the status

of the Title V sources operating on the Navajo Nation.

I. AQCP addresses Open Burning within the Four Corners and coordinates with BIA Fire & Aviation. A Stage 1 Fire Restriction was enacted by the Navajo Nation President on July 25, 2023 and has been in effect since. AQCP has only been accepting cultural/traditional registrations. A total of thirteen (13) Agricultural (before the fire ban) and fifty-one (51) Cultural/Traditional registrations were processed this quarter. Four (4) open burn complaints were received and addressed.

J. Visited a total of 7 Chapters to disseminate Open Burn Regulation information such as burn registrations and exemptions and the Stage 1 Fire restriction. The chapters include Bodaway Gap, Jeddito, Ganado, Oak Springs, Shiprock, Upper Fruitland and Chilchinbeto.

K. Information regarding the proposed Navajo Nation Minor Source Program Regulations were shared at the NN Fair booth and with Steamboat Store.

Surface & Groundwater Protection

Major Accomplishments:

Water Quality:

- Water Quality staff received approval for a Federal Inspector Credential from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9.
- Staff issued 401 Certification for the United

States Bureau of Reclamation-Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Reach 10.1.1 (404 permit)

- Staff issued Corrective Action letter to Pizza Edge at the Nataha Dziil Shopping Center in Sanders, Arizona that released grease into a storm drain that reached an unnamed wash.

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 tentatively approved the grant application for \$1.5M in Gold King Mine Settlement funds to cleanup Many Devils Wash trash dumps in Shiprock, New Mexico.

Navajo Public Water Systems Supervision Program:

Staff met with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to get updates on the administrative orders for their systems this quarter.

- Aneth Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Administrative Order: Navajo Tribal Utility Authority completed the arsenic treatment plant at Well #3 in the Aneth public water system. Results have been submitted showing non-detect levels of arsenic. Wells #1 and #2 will be processed through a treatment plant to remove arsenic. The plant is at 60% complete in terms of the design.

- Dilkon Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Administrative Order: A treatment plant to remove the total organic carbons from the raw water is complete. Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Administrative Order will begin collecting quarterly sampling for disinfection by-products as required of the administrative order.

- Seba Dalkai (Bureau of Indian Affairs) Administrative Order: an administrative order to comply was issued to the Bureau of Indian Affairs school for exceeding the disinfection by-products

(DBPs) “maximum contaminant level”. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was supposed to provide a compliance plan, issue quarterly public notices to the consumers of this system for exceeding the disinfection by-products, and provide bottled water to the consumers of this system.

- Toadlena/Sheepsprings Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Administrative Order: The project to address a hydraulic deficiency at the Toadlena intertie with Sheepsprings is complete. Navajo Tribal Utility Authority will start sampling after project to blend the water begins.

- United States Environmental Protection Agency published their decision to approve the Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Rule (regulations) and the Groundwater Rule (regulations) in the federal register. The last day to comment is September 29, 2023. If there are no comments, then primacy for these two regulations will be awarded to the Navajo Nation Public Water Systems Supervision Program.

- The Navajo Public Water Systems Supervision Program received a silver award for best primacy agency data quality this year at the Data Manager’s User Conference held by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. A water quality database is managed by the staff and each quarter, staff sent a quarterly “upload” of data to United States Environmental Protection Agency-Headquarters. This data is used to evaluate enforcement and activities to monitor compliance of all public water systems on the Navajo Nation. Each system is required to sample monthly for bacteriological quality, annual samples for nitrate/nitrite and disinfection by-products, 3-year samples for inorganic/synthetic/volatile organic compounds, and 3/6/9-year radionuclide sampling (9-year cycle shows that the water is essentially non-detect for radioactive chemistry). The data is managed using a database

and each set of data is filed both electronically and in hard copy format.

Domestic Wastewater

As we receive permit applications, staff are processing septic tank construction permits as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319, § 4001) / Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund projects.

Underground Injection Control

Staff were requested to issue a Minor Permit Modification to Permit #NN05 (Navajo Transitional Energy Company-Tacitus) to increase daily injection rate (volume) and adjusting financial assurance for Permit #NN01 and #N17 because of P&A's (plugging and abandonment) completed on two of their wells.

Surface and Ground Water Protection Department

- Participated in the Army Corp of Engineers call with the Water Quality Program on September 28, 2023.

- Staff participated in the Office of the President/Vice President's Strategic Planning Session and developed items using SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results). Community knowledge and public education, as well as finding if communities' health improves over ensuring compliance with environmental law.

- Staff participated in a meeting with the New Mexico Environment Department, Navajo Oil/Gas, Division of Natural Resources, and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency to discuss funding and projects to properly abandoned wells that were drilled for oil/gas.

- Department Manager provided a presentation of the small systems capacity development for the Navajo Nation at a conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Department Manager was the keynote speaker and explained that most of the public water systems are small. The work to ensure compliance is conducted daily by the Navajo Public Water Systems Supervision Program staff. Staff provide technical assistance and ensures enforcement. Technical, managerial, and financial management are key components in managing a public water system.

- Department Manager provided an overview of Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency activities at the Northern Agency Council meeting on September 16, 2023. Executive Director was attending the Western Agency Council on the same date and time.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS SUPERVISION PROGRAM

ENFORCEMENT

- Staff received the strategic performance measure (Long Term Performance Goal) for violations through March 31, 2023. Navajo shows a -29% rate in comparison to other states in USEPA Region 9.

- Staff received the July 2023 Enforcement Targeting Tool report from EPA Region 9. The list shows how many of the Navajo public water systems are in noncompliance.

- Staff participate in the Administrative Orders issued to 3 NTUA public water systems (July, August, and September) and these include the Aneth, Dilcon, and Toadlena public water systems.

- Discussions regarding Tohajiilee water project

and regulatory oversight were held with Navajo DOJ. New Mexico Environment Department staff are working with Navajo DOJ on areas where Navajo may have jurisdiction over the water project.

- Staff provided an annotated ETT report to EPA Region 9. Three public water systems were listed with scores of 11 and above. The annotated ETT report allows the primacy states (including the Navajo Nation) to explain why these systems are in noncompliance. We list the work that is being conducted to get these systems back into compliance.

- Jacobs Engineering, the consulting group that operates/maintains Cutter Lateral, has provided the monthly operating reports that outlines values for total organic compounds, disinfection by-products, volumes of water, chlorine residual readings, for the July/August/September quarter.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Staff are working with USEPA Region 9 on a project to collect samples (entry point samples) of drinking water systems and have these samples analyzed for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

- Staff issued a public water system identification number to the new Lukachukai BIA School. The new number is NN0435012.

- Staff provided historical well sampling analyses/results for well #16T-521 in Prewitt, NM. A plaque was placed near that well stating that the well is contaminated with uranium and the well was shut down. PWSSP confirmed the results of this well.

- Staff provided technical assistance to the BIA Cove Day School staff regarding the interior

painting of the storage tank. Staff informed BIA that they should refer to the paint coating manufacturer and or vendor. Another option is to vent the tank for 7 days with all hatches and manways open. Also, they should conduct a “paint rub test” to ensure that the paint is completely dry and/or cured. Then the tank should be disinfected prior to service.

- Staff provided technical assistance to the Monument Valley Schools by reminding them of the requirement to submit a Level 1 assessment due to the presence of bacteria during July.

- Staff conducted a Level 2 Assessment at Navajo, New Mexico and at the Legislative Offices in Window Rock. A level 2 assessment was triggered in August at the Fort Defiance/Window Rock/St Michaels CWS.

- Staff conducted a Level 2 Assessment at the Mariano Lake BIA School for E. Coli violations during the month of August 2023.

- Staff assisted NTUA with a Tier 2 Public Notice for Mexican Water public water system. They had an exceedance for Total Coliforms. The PN was issued on July 21, 2023.

- Staff informed Souder Miller about several tanks that were recently inspected by PWSSP during recent Sanitary Surveys in and around the Cutter Lateral System. There is a common problem with the tank vent screens where they are prematurely deteriorating. The screens are made of nylon or similar material. I asked that they be inspected and replaced with stainless steel or bronze screen to increase their longevity.

SANITARY SURVEYS

- Staff received a sanitary survey completion status report from USEPA Region 9. This report is

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used to compare what the program has in terms of scheduling sanitary survey reports. Email from Don Hodge on July 31, 2023.

- NTUA provides responses to the sanitary survey deficiencies found during the inspection and as reported in the sanitary survey report. The latest responses were to the Newcomb, Naschitti/Bisola, Sawmill, and Wheatfields reports.

- Staff completed twenty (20) sanitary survey inspections of the NTUA, BIA systems and other systems (RNA, Alamo, Canoncito, businesses).

DESIGN/REVIEW

- Staff met with the Shonto Community Governance Chapter to begin planning for a Government Services Complex in Shonto, AZ.

- NGWSP Design Call Meeting

- Staff attended the Alamo-TAG (Tribal Advisory Group), Utah-TAG and Western-TAG meetings.

- Staff attended a well and illegal dam meeting with Sharon Begay-McCabe.

- Staff attended a NNEPA & Eden Tech Meeting with Chilchinbeto Chapter (virtual)

Final Inspections

Staff participated in the final inspection of the Naschitti to Sheep Springs intertie (NA-18-XF1) on 9/27/2023.

Permits completed:

Navajo Nation Water Resources Tohajiilee Water Supply Project.

Permits pending:

Ganado Senior & Veterans Center

Gadiiahi Chapter House & Senior Center

Chinle HMO (Waiting on redesign of AC water pipe)

IHS NA-22-LN7 Transmission Line Shiprock to 4 Corners Regional Water System

San Juan Lateral Reach 12.1 & 12.2

San Juan Lateral Pumping Plants 4 & 7

Kaibeto Square Butte WL Ext NA-11-R69/Z46

Kayenta Scattered Housing NA-19-F91

Kayenta Scattered Housing NA-20-G08

IHS Water Project NA-18-XF1

Public Notices: 4

Navajo Nation Water Resources Tohajiilee Water Supply Project.

Gadiiahi Chapter House & Senior Center

I.HS NA-22-LN7 Transmission Line Shiprock to Four-Corners Regional Water System

Ganado Senior & Veteran Center

ADMINISTRATION

- Staff worked on the FY2024 Navajo Nation budget process

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- Vehicle G63-1376S has been marked deleted in FleetCommander on 7/31/2023 5:18:07 PM.

- Staff will be returning all of the GSA vehicles due to having no support from the funding agency. The funding agency would not include language in the grant award that allows the programs to enter into contracts with the GSA.

- USEPA published their decision to approve the Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Rule (regulations) and the Groundwater Rule (regulations) in the federal register. The last day to comment is September 29, 2023. If there are no comments, then primacy for these two regulations will be awarded to the Navajo Nation PWSSP.

- Staff have been working with the Navajo OSHA on the NNEPA Fairgrounds Office and the major renovations needed for staff to return to the building. The carpet will be removed and a protective sealant will be placed on the concrete floor. The front area of the building will be renovated in terms of the west walls and the outside drainage will be renovated. The building was sampled for a variety of microorganisms, including mold, by the Tiis Ya Toh consulting firm and the samples were found to be negative.

- Lead and Copper-Short Term Regulations

- August 1, received from Corine the SY2023Q2 LTPG

DATA MANAGEMENT

Staff continue to enter water quality data of all public water systems. Data is entered and filed both electronically and in hard copies.

STAFF TRAINING

- Staff attended the PFAS sampling methods.

- Staff attended the EPA Drinking Water Training System

- Staff participated in a WEX training with the Tuba City Fleet and learned about the p-card reconciliation, policies and procedures.

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

- Staff contacted Arizona Rural Water to conduct training on the Navajo Nation. ARW is willing to hold Level 1 and 2 type water operator training as long as there are more than 2 different water systems in attendance. We attempted to host a training but we were not able to secure a conference room due to new purchasing requirements. Staff also reached out to BIA Facility Managers in Fort Defiance, Chinle and Tuba City to see if they would host a training event. All three managers didn't respond to the opportunity.

- Staff proctored exams for NTUA operators on July 12. Approximately 20 Water Distribution Level 2 exams were given.

- Staff proctored exams for NTUA operators on July 18. Approximately 15 Water Distribution Level 2 exams were given.

- Staff proctored a Level 1 Drinking Water Distribution exam for BIA on August 16. Approximately 7 operators participated.

- Staff proctored a Level 2 Drinking Water Distribution exam for NTUA on August 18. Approximately 7 operators participated.

- Staff drafted the annual Operator Certification

Report to USEPA. It still needs to be finalized and sent to USEPA.

Domestic Wastewater Program

Staff participate in the Administrative Orders on Consent meeting (July, August, and September) to discuss the administrative orders issued by the USEPA-Region 9 on NTUA's wastewater systems including Kayenta, Tuba City, Chinle and Ganado wastewater treatment plants. Other discussions included a status update on the development of the reclaimed water regulations.

Administrative oversight for Chapter SRAs (septic systems). We have been working with Navajo DOJ on the development of the program components for (1) replace, or install septic systems for individual homes, (2) septic cleaning services for individual homes and (3) replace or install septic systems for chapters (public facilities). This document is written to ensure compliance with the Domestic Wastewater Regulations on projects being reviewed in the 164 process for ARPA projects.

Sanders Bashas had a spill from their septic tank wastewater infrastructure during May 2023. The staff ordered them to fix the leak.

Staff participated in discussions to develop and implement a MOU with the NTUA regarding access to wastewater facilities and support that might be needed between entities.

Staff participated in a chapter field assessment for a placement of a chapter building in Shonto, AZ.

Staff participated in a meeting with Navajo-NM community members to discuss the operation/maintenance of the Navajo sewer lagoon. Community members were inquiring about the

legalities of taking sewer water from Navajo and placing the wastewater into the Crystal sewer lagoon.

- Permits completed: 1
- Permits pending:
- Waste Water Project Name
- Tuba City High Performance Pond Construction was submitted by the NTUA for a construction permit.
- Rock Springs-NHA lagoon, NM15-176
- Nazlini ARPA-Septic/Leach field
- Ganado Senior & Veterans Center
- Gadiiahi Chapter House & Senior Center
- Chinle HMO
- Kayenta WWTP CFID
- NTUA Septic Install (60 Homeowners)
- Nazlini Chapter-Septic System Install-164 Process

ARPA Administrative/ Regulatory Review: Staff completed site visits to verify septic failures, septic installations.

31 Field Investigations for Proposed ARPA Construction, by Chapter:

- 1. Newcomb - 2
- 2. Shiprock - 1
- 3. Ft. Defiance - 3
- 4. Upper Fruitland - 2
- 5. Rock Springs - 2
- 6. Lukachukai - 2
- 7. Red Lake - 1
- 8. Wheatfields - 1
- 9. Prewitt - 2
- 10. Haystack - 1
- 11. Naschitti - 1

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- 12. Tohlakai - 2
- 13. Church Rock - 4
- 14. Rock Point - 1
- 15. Nazlini - 1
- 16. Tonalea - 1
- 17. Pinedale - 2
- 18. Iyanbito - 1
- 19. Pinon - 1

Meetings & Technical Reviews of ARPA Projects:

- • NHA Rock Springs Housing Lagoon
- • IHS Kaibeto Square Butte Waterline Extension NA-11-R69/Z46
- • Kayenta Scattered Housing NA-19-F91
- • Kayenta Scattered Housing NA-20-G08
- • IHS Water Project NA-18-XF1
- • Nazlini Chapter-Septic System Install-164 Review Process
- • Chapter SOW & Administrative Oversight Review (DOJ)
- • Development of Powerpoint Presentation w/ USEPA SepticSmart Materials
- • WEX Training for Off-Reservation Travel
- • Field Visit & Notice of Violation-Jennifer Bedonie (Pinon)
- • Septic Mound Design & Presentation-IWSH/Dig Deep-Baca Chapter

60 Permit Application Reviews-NTUA ARPA Septic Install-Residential, by Chapter:

- Coyote Canyon - 1
- Many Farms - 2
- Nahata Dziil - 1
- Kinlichee - 5
- Teesto - 1
- Manuelito - 1

- Chinle - 3
- Navajo Mountain - 3
- St. Michaels - 1
- Ft. Defiance - 2
- Tuba City - 3
- Steamboat - 2
- Dennehotso - 4
- Pinon - 1
- Indian Wells - 1
- Naschitti - 1
- Lukachukai - 1
- Rock Point - 3
- Cornfields - 1
- Dilkon - 3
- Low Mountain - 2
- Whitecone - 1
- Tselani - 1
- Rock Springs - 1
- Twin Lakes - 1
- Ojaltah - 1
- Tsaile - 1
- Littlewater - 1
- Round Rock - 1
- Iyanbito - 1
- Jeddito - 1
- Greasewood - 1
- Black Mesa - 2
- Blue Gap - 1
- Church Rock - 1
- Sawmill - 1

Final Inspections

Staff attended a final inspection at the Rock Springs Sewer Lagoon-NHA.

Staff Training

July 25 – Technical Assistance Webinar Series: Improving CWA-NPDES Permit Compliance at Small Wastewater Treatment Systems

Lagooniversity: Lagoon Microbiology

Register-NAWT (WW) Inspector-CPOW

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The WOTUS rule was approved during September 2023; recognizes the Sackett case and wetlands definition in the Clean Water Act.

UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Staff interview an applicant for the Associate Geologist position. That applicant denied our offer of employment.

Horsely-Witten remediation on 2 wells under Permit #NN24.

Waste Regulatory Compliance Department

Program Description

The Waste Regulatory Compliance Department (WRCD) is comprised of the following environmental programs Storage Tank Program, Leaking Storage Tank Program, Resource Conservation Recovery Program and Superfund Program.

All WRCD programs are responsible for protecting environment and human health through regulation, public outreach, compliance and technical assistance, monitoring clean-up of contaminated soils, inspections, proposing legislation, enforcement, and site investigations. The primary laws, rules and regulations that

WRCD programs are responsible to uphold are the Navajo Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, Navajo Nation Solid Waste Act, Navajo Nation Storage Tank Act, Penalty Regulations, Delivery Prohibition Regulations and, Navajo Nation Soil and Water Clean-Up Standards. Any changes to existing Navajo Nation rules and regulations require a process that involves notification to the public. The public notification process is required under the Navajo Nation Uniform Regulations: Permit Review, Administrative Enforcement Orders, Hearings & Rulemakings (NN Environmental Acts).

The Waste Regulatory Compliance Department and its programs are built on foundational goals and objectives that focus on:

1. Exercise of authority with use of Navajo Nation and federal environmental laws, rules and regulations;
2. Increasing partnerships to reduce risks to human health from sources of pollution, including illegal dumping and preventing/clean-up of regulated substances releases;
3. Outreach education by incorporating traditional Navajo philosophy to prevent harm to the environment;
4. Effectively monitor remediation activity on a release of a regulated substance that pose risks to human health and environment;
5. Use data to effectively plan and develop strategies to reduce risks.

Major Accomplishments

Superfund Program:

The Navajo Superfund Program is responsible for regulating hazardous substances identified in the Navajo Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act on the Navajo Nation. The chemical of concern the program has been dealing with is uranium and radon from abandoned uranium mines and former uranium mill sites, including hexavalent chromium, asbestos (to name a few) identified at former lumber yards. The Program receives federal cooperative agreement grants from the USEPA Region 9 to address the chemical of concerns on the Navajo Nation. The NSP complies with the reporting requirements as indicated in the terms and conditions in the cooperative agreements are on a mid-year and end-of-year period. The 10 Year Plan helps guide the tribal and federal agencies to address the legacy of AUMs on the Navajo Nation.

The NNEPA NSP is a co-regulatory agency with USEPA Region 9 to address the abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. The NSP works jointly with USEPA to ensure Principal Responsible Parties of AUMs acknowledge the recommendations and clean-up alternatives as suggested by the NSP staff. In general, the legacy of AUMs of the Navajo Nation has entered into the remediation phase by following the federal CERCLA process. The following reports provide the progress made in the 4th Quarter on AUM work completed by the NSP program staff from Remedial Project Managers, Environmental Specialist, GIS Analysts:

- MSCA PRP: July 17, 2023-President Bu Nygren signed EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 04-2023 ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF ABANDONED URANIUM MINES AND ADVOCATING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO REMEDIATE SAID IMPACTS.

- Multi-Site Cooperative Agreement (MSCA)

Tronox: Coordinated with the lead USEPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM) to have a Red Rock Landfill Tour, we suggested for Navajo Nation Council, Thoreau Chapter Leaders, and Red Water Pond Road. There was no Navajo Nation leadership who attended either session. But Jim Dumount, NM Representative attended. RWPR was our primary attendees on August 9, 2023. Billy Moore, Red Rock Landfill presented a nice tour of the landfill, primarily concentrating on the location selected for the mine waste material. NN Delegates made the request to have the tour at another time, we considered that and set another date for the tour before the lead USEPA RPM, departed. There were no takers for the second tour.

- MSCA Tronox: The NNEPA Senior RPM (SRPM), On-Scene Coordinator (IPA), and Executive Director attended and presented along with USEPA, at the Thoreau Chapter information session, on Sunday, August 6, 2023. Also in attendance from NNEPA/ WRCD/ NSP were the Environmental Department Manager and Senior Environmental Specialist.

- MSCA Tronox: Request from Delegate George Tolth to give a presentation for Casamero Lake concerning the Section 32;33 mine waste. USEPA and NNEPA (two representatives from each agency) conducted a discussion with the Casamero Lake Chapter on September 22, 2023. No Delegate, Chapter President or Vice President was present. Jerry Bodie was the only representative. There was also no quorum, there was no PowerPoint presentation available, 2nd time USEPA did not have their cards ready for this meeting. The presentation was sent to the NNEPA Senior RPM in a shared folder and only permitted with TEAMS. Not to mention no one from the community of Section 32 was notified of the presentation/discussion that would be taking place.

o 7/7/23 Visited Cove Transfer Station to kick off the soil sorting effort to reduce waste volumes.

• MSCA Tronox: Work has been occurring at the Cove Transfer Station (CTS) #2 this quarter and before the quarter ended CTS #1 is now starting up. CTS #2 truckloads of waste of high-level waste have been loaded in trucks and hauled off daily. The trucks are being sent to Deer Trails in Colorado, SRPM has yet to review the manifest and data of these loads. SRPM was informed 18-20 TONS are being hauled off at roughly 20 trucks, Monday – Thursday.

• MSCA Tronox: At Cove, lots of fieldwork scoping took place this quarter. Mesa I and Mesa VI, Frank Junior, and Henry Simpson.

o 8/8/23 Visited Mesa I West in Cove to look at Scoping and characterization work with focus on engineering evaluation on findings plus burial cell with potential erosion

o 9/18/23 Visited Cove Simpson Mine, Mesa VI, and potential borrow area for characterization work being completed by Tetra Tech

• MSCA Principal Responsible Party (PRP) – North East Church Rock (NECR): Weekly meetings concerning NECR Voluntary Alternative Housing (VAH). The past three months' concentration on efforts have been to get Red Water Pond Road (RWPR) community members into homes that are not located in RWPR community. USEPA indicates we still have a deadline to meet. At this point homesite leases are not an option. We have NHA homes, and pre-existing homes in the Gallup area. Still need 3 homes for the RWPR.

• MSCA PRP – NECR: Senior Environmental Specialist and SRPM have met with Navajo Land Department to begin the footwork for abandon homesite lease process. For over a year now we

have knowledge that there are 5 abandoned homesites within the Sundance community. We have gone through the public notice period and now are waiting to have BIA sign off on those abandoned homes. The reason is to allow these homesite leases available to members of the RWPR community to reside and make their homestead.

• Old Church Rock Mine (OCRM): One meeting began talking points of the Water Well that USEPA wants to develop in Section 17, for construction. USEPA have said it will be for the community, but USEPA has not contacted Water Resources for information on the quality or quantity of water there in Section 17. USEPA has not contacted Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), to see if NTUA would accept managing the well after construction so that it can be maintained for the community. NNEPA brought these issues to the attention of USEPA, and they indicate that would be the next stages. NNEPA thinks this should be the first.

o Periodic meetings occur between NNEPA and USEPA representatives.

o NNEPA received the Removal Assessment Report this quarter.

o USEPA provides updates to the community during the regular Church Rock Chapter House Meetings.

• Wells Cargo Workplan Tasks: USEPA and NNEPA are currently negotiating an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with Wells Cargo, Inc. to conduct Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) report at the non-priority sites and conduct supplemental subsurface sampling at Juan Horse No. 3 in Cameron, AZ. The AOC also includes Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for all sites, if determined necessary.

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- ENPRO Holdings, Inc. document review of the following:

- o Draft EE/CA for A&B No. 2 – Pending. Many changes required for ABNo.3, USEPA and NSP will not review ABNo2 until the draft final for AB No3.

- o Draft EE/CA for A&B No. 3 – Final comments submitted ENPRO on July 27, 2023. Wait-ing on risk assessment methodology update, anticipated in August 2023

- o Draft RSE for Bodaway Gap Sites (5 sites) – USPEA and NNEPA comments sent to Ar-cadis on September 25, 2023.

- o No Further Action Memo for A&B No. 7 – EPA requested Mine Site Lease Boundary Documents for all EnPro and EPNG sites on 6/20/2023.

- El Paso Natural Gas (EPNG) document review of the following:

- o Draft Final Action Memorandum – received September 7, 2023

- o Final EE/CA CH12, February 17, 2023.

- o Draft EE/CA CH14 – in Progress

- o Remaining 17 EPGN RSE reports – in progress

- o Draft RSE Workplan for other 17 Mines

- o Draft RSE Workplan 17 Mines- Drilling Addendum – Finalized

- o EPNG Draft Final RSE CH12 and CH14 – Finalized

- o DRAFT EECA Workplan – Finalized

- o Workplan for Erosion Repair at CH1 – Finalized

- o USEPA R9/NNEPA are currently awaiting approval from the USEPA Headquarters for the streamlined risk assessment, which is necessary to proceed with the EE/CAs. The USEPA has estimated that they will provide PRPs with the risk information on July 15, 2023. This is a chal-lenge for PRP, USEPA R9 and NNEPA.

- Chevron USA Inc., AKA Old Gulf Mine:

- o Document review of Mariano Lake Draft EECA – In progress. Next step is to finalizing Draft EE/CA upon review of revisions. USEPA and NNEPA response to comments were submit-ted on June 23, 2023. Next steps are submitting all comments to Chevron and Arcadis for review and response to comments (RTC). Reviewed draft EE/CA and submitted comments on March 24th.

- o On-going chapter outreach: October 21, 2023 is the schedule EE/CA public meeting. Providing notice to chapters and grazing official.

- Homestake Mining Company (HMC):

- o Document review of Mac and Black Jack Draft EE/CA – in progress. Next step is to final-ize Draft EE/CA upon review of revisions. USEPA and NNEPA submitted Response to com-ments on June 23, 2023. Next steps are submitting all comments to Homestake for review and re-sponse to comments. Reviewed draft EE/CA and submitted comments on March 17th, review will be the following week.

- o On-going Chapter Outreach: October 21, 2023 is the EE/CA public meeting. Providing no-tice to chapters and grazing official.

- Western Nuclear Inc.:

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o Document review of the following: USEPA and NSP EE/CA submitted Response to comments, Finalizing EE/CA. Reviewed draft EE/CA and submitted comments on May 22nd, re-view will be the following week.

o On-going chapter outreach: October 21, 2023 is the schedule EE/CA public meeting. Providing notice to chapters and grazing official by CA.

• Cyprus Amax Minerals Company (Cyprus Amax):

o Document review of the following: Monument Valley No. 2 Revised Draft RSE, in progress. Cove Mines EE/CA, in progress. Tse Tah Revised RSE Report – approved September 2023. Interim Action Closures Workplan, agencies approved, September 7, 2023 and Field work to start September 11th. Firelight No. 6 RSE Report, Final RSE Report – May 21, 2023. Rock Door No. 1 RSE, Final RSE Report – May 31, 2023. Cove RSE Report – Finalized. LiDARWork Plan – Finalized.

o On-going chapter outreach: Group 2 RSE field activates outreach and notification by CA. Group 3 access agreement outreach, notification of field work. Providing notice to chapters and grazing official.

o Final Interim Action Work Plan version was sent back to EPA and NNEPA for final approval. USEPA lead RPM is planning to send approval the week of September 8.

o U.S. EPA is not ready to move forward on the Martin Mine George Simpson No. 1 Monitoring Work Plan, and their review is on hold.

o Monument No. 2 RSE Report and Tse Tah RSE Report agency reviews are scheduled to be done by the end of September 2023.

o Climax Transfer Station EE/CA and Cove EE/CA comments are planned to be sent to Cyprus Amax in October 2023.

o Group 3 RSE Work Plan comments are expected to be sent to Cyprus Amax at the end of October 2023. Cyprus Amax is seeking approval to conduct cultural and biological surveys prior to the approval of the Group 3 RSE Work Plan. U.S. EPA and NNEPA will provide approval by the end of the month.

• Community Outreach in Coalmine Canyon Chapter: September 16, 2023- Environmental Specialist attended the Western Agency Council Meeting alongside Executive Director of Navajo EPA, to provide presentation regarding the cleanup of Charles Huskon No. 12 mine. Unfortunately, Western Agency Council adjourned at 4:00 p.m. and NNEPA did not present.

• Training: The Senior Remedial Project Manager, Remedial Project Manager and Environmental Specialist attended the National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPUM) in Chicago, IL on August 14 – 18, 2023. This training is to provide more support for the Navajo Nation to make decisions on a technical level to address Abandoned Uranium Mines.

• Phase 2 Trustee (NRD):

o Meetings/fieldwork: 7/19/23 to 7/20/23 Attended the Trustee Quarterly meeting in Window Rock, AZ as well as a field site visit to Claim 28 in Tachee/Blue Gap, AZ

o 7/27/23 Tachee/Blue Gap informational meeting with the chapter alongside USEPA and the Trustee

o 7/29/23 USEPA presented their Community

Involvement Plan to Kayenta community which involves Trust sites

o 8/31/23 Met with Eastern BIA for Trust introductions on EE/CA work for 3 sites

o 9/19/23 Talked with Western USEPA and NNEPA staff about repository ranking parameters to eventually send to PRP's for their ranking of their sites

• Superfund Multi-Site Cooperative Agreement (SACA) CORE Workplan Tasks: NAUM Data Portal. The ongoing progress on the Portal continues to expand with more GIS data uploaded. The out of the box ArcGIS approach seems to be suffice for the Portal developers and management. The NNEPA GIS Analyst is working with USEPA & the Tetra Tech staff. The Portal will continue to housing all the AUM related data from the Contractors, USEPA Region 9, NSP and NAML. The Portal is restricted to staff from the above mentioned agencies. The NNEPA NSP GIS Analyst is able to train staff on the use of the portal.

• SACA CORE Workplan Tasks: No conference calls on the Contaminated Structures Project (CSP) in the fourth quarter. It was decided back in May 2023 that we would have one monthly call on CSP. No training or meeting on finishing the CSP Manual. Need to have a meeting with USEPA.

• SACA CORE Workplan Tasks: August 22, 2023-Conference call on TC-004 regarding possible Mill Waste from Rare Metals on site. United State Department Of Energy (USDOE) will be site to identify waste and if mine related at TC-004. USDOE, USEPA and NNEPA were all on the call to coordinate a date and time for a field visit. No update call scheduled on the findings from DOE on possible mill/mine related waste. NNEPA will be on site August 30, 2023 to assist.

• SACA CORE Workplan Tasks: August 23, 2023-Meeting with Executive Director and Environmental Department Manager on improving the Community Involvement Plan with USEPA for communities on Navajo that are impacted by AUM's. The length of Public Comment is also a concern to Executive Director, that 30 days for communities is not enough time for comments on EE/CA's. Per NNEPA outreach needs to improve since the Chapters have re-opened back up.

• MSCA PRP (EPNG, NEPRO, SECTION 9, RUBY MINES, MAC/BLACK JACK, MARIANO LAKE, NECR, HAYSTACK): Various conference calls to discuss matters and issues related to the Voluntary Alternative Housing for residents adjacent to AUMs. July 15, 2023 NNEPA attended the Red Water Pond Association Commemoration event. Various dignitaries attended the event, but the Association was expecting a representative from the OPVP.

• MSCA PRP: August 03, 2023-traveled to Albuquerque, NM to attend the Listening Sessions scheduled by the USEPA Office Land Emergency Management, Washington D.C. Mr. Cliff Villa-OLEM welcomed and opened the meeting to the audience in attendance. USEPA staff were in attendance from Region 6 and 9. NNEPA Executive Director welcomed the Listening Session to listen to Community members who are affected by AUM's on Navajo. Red Water Pond Assoc., Laguna Pueblo, Private Citizens and little girl spoke and said she wants to go home to Red Water Pond Road and does not like living in Gallup, NM. Another Listening Session is be scheduled near or on Navajo. The Listening Session was also on ZOOM and comments were made by attendees on ZOOM.

• MSCA PRP: August 01, 2023-Conference call with Eastern Navajo Land Commission on

Superfund, Federal CERCLA, Ten Year Plan and the role of the Eastern Land Commission. Other topics brought up was the Red Rocks Land Fill, NECR, Quivera Mine, disposal sites, Public Comment Period and waste rock transport from AUM's.

- Hazardous Substance Fund: August 30, 2023-Meeting on the Superfund building with staff. A new storage shed has been ordered to store files from the Superfund office. Also met with the landlord on August 3 to discuss the rental lease matters and payments.

- Brownfields Timely Survey and Inventory of Brownfields sites:

- o No visits to chapters to obtain recommendations on possible sites for Brownfields listing have occurred. However, data gaps are being identified and corrected where possible in the files for existing brownfields sites.

- o The Brownfields Program has been meeting with, planning, and providing technical assistance for the following sites: Navajo Forest Products Industry; Scope of work written and RFP advertised for the BIL 128(a) field work for FY-23. One contractor responded and negotiations on their proposal is ongoing. Their costs were too high and they seem to have misread the request

- o Old Navajo Tribal Sawmill: The Region 9 Superfund Emergency Response for a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) for the surface asbestos on site is now scheduled for Summer, 2024. Characterize the soil and groundwater at various Operational Units at the Navajo Tribal Sawmill Enterprise site. This project will have to wait until after the asbestos has been abated by Region 9 Superfund Emergency Response and should be part of the BIL 128(a) FY-25 field work.

- o Sheep Dip Vat remediation planning: SDV019-Black Water Springs and SDV494-Toadlena were scheduled for removal in late October and November, 2022. The weather caused a delay of the remediation. SDV494 remediation had been scheduled for completion the week of June 19, 2023. But as of September 1, 2023, the BIA is still excavating contaminated soil at both locations.

- o Project management and oversight at remediation sites. Navajo Forest Products Industry will be the priority site being addressed in FY-23-27. Time frame: as remedial tasks are scheduled. Remedial work had been scheduled to occur throughout the summer of 2023. This did not happen however due to the late award of the BIL 128(a) grant by the federal government and then the lengthy review process of the NN 164 Review.

- o Environmental Specialist retired from the Brownfields program on 10/6/23.

- o As a mechanism and resource to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation, the Brownfields program continued to attend the Red Lake Chapter Meetings and Sawmill Chapter meetings to update them regarding the TCRA for asbestos at the old Navajo Tribal Sawmill located within the community.

Resource Conservation Recovery Program

The Resource Conservation Recovery Program (RCRP) enforces the Navajo Nation Solid Waste Act by issuing Notice of Violations to people that illegally dump their waste. Reports of illegal dumping activity is reported to the RCRP by telephone and information is recorded on the Complaint Form. The RCRP program will issue the NOV to the responsible party (RP) and order

them to collect their solid waste. In this process, Navajo Fundamental Law is incorporated to educate and conduct outreach to the RP and give them a chance to address the situation. If the RP knowingly and intentionally performs the illegal dumping activity, then, the enforcement aspect is the next step. If the RP does not comply, it is referred to the NNEPA Criminal Enforcement Department for further investigation and enforcement. The RCRP has a tracking system to follow up on illegal dump sites to ensure clean-up is completed by the RP.

Storage Tank Program

The Navajo Nation EPA Prevention Program conducts approximately 50 compliance inspections per year under tribal authorities and four (4) educational outreach sessions per year. Inspection reports are submitted to USEPA Region 9 and enforcement action is taken by NNEPA when appropriate.

Major Accomplishments

A. The Storage Tank Program conducted sixteen (16) UST compliance inspection for this quarter, and we are now done for the Fiscal year with a total of 23 inspections completed for the year.

B. On August 16, 2023, NAV 226 Chinle Unified School District removed 3 underground Storage Tanks (UST) and NNEPA provided the oversight. Soil sample was collected twice to ensure contamination were low. NNEPA is now reviewing the UST tank pull report submitted by Environmental Technology, Inc.

C. On September 8, 2023, had a meeting with Craig Callaway and Robert Moss of Red Mesa Trading Company to discuss NAV 214 Naschitti Trading Post UST tank removal.

D. On September 13 -15, 2023, attended the 2023 Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) workshop which included every aspect of the UST system and this was a good workshop to network with other federal and state agencies.

E. On September 27, 2023, NAV 116 Red Mesa Express #517 had two tank removal conducted by Bio Remediation, Inc. and UDEQ and NNEPA Storage Tank Program provided dual-oversight. Pending soil sample.

Leaking Storage Tank Program

The NNEPA Leaking Storage Tank Program is responsible for monitoring the remediation of petroleum contaminated soils and groundwater on the Navajo Nation. The LSTP is supported by the Special Revenue and Federal Cooperative Agreement Grants. The Leaking STP identifies and directs responsible parties to investigate and perform clean-up activities of contaminated soil and groundwater by enforcing the Navajo Nation Soil and Water Clean-up Standards. Currently, there are 38 total leaking UST cases on the Navajo Nation: 24 are responsible party lead, 8 are NNEPA lead, and 6 are USEPA lead.

Major Accomplishments

A. The Leaking Storage Tank Program continues to conduct oversight on clean-up activity in accordance to the NNEPA Soil and Water Cleanup Standards and the federal laws.

B. These are the current active projects currently discussed for next action steps to take at various phases of clean up:

i. NAV 176 7-2-11 Food Store, Kayenta, AZ – conducted further discussions with USEPA Region 9 on response to responsible party's request of

reducing the quarterly monitoring to Semi-annual re-ports but this will be discussed among the regulating agency on the final decision.

ii. NAV 177 7-2-11 Food Store, Tuba City, AZ – conducted further discussions with USEPA Region 9 on response to responsible parties to do some aggressive monitoring of site and to increase on installing monitoring well and to us a soil air sparging to minimized the plume flow.

iii. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA-BEM) Operable Units OU-1, OU-2, and OU-3 located in Tuba City, AZ, we had a re-group meeting on July 14, 2023, for the next plan of action for this site and still waiting for a Corrective Action Plan for this site.

iv. NAV 186 Tuba City Fleet Management – had a meeting with responsible parties and USEPA Region 9 on July 12th via Microsoft Teams to recap on current site conditions and to ensure everyone understood what was happening. Also, new staff were introduced and no waiting for a Corrective Action Plan from the responsible party.

v. NAV 185 Davis Chevrolet – continue semi-annual reporting of this site and continue groundwater and soil vapor extraction is continuing for this site. Government agency meeting is conducted after semi-annual report is submitted to determine what to do next.

vi. NAV 322 Pic N Run Store located in Chinle, drillers were onsite the week of July 2023 and a report was submitted.

vii. NAV 440 Kerley Trading Post – continue to monitor site and to receive reports. Our meeting on September 8 was to regroup and to determine what he next plan of action to take.

Superfund:

- SACA CORE Workplan Tasks: August 23, 2023-Meeting with Executive Director and Environmental Department Manager on improving the Community Involvement Plan with USEPA for communities on Navajo that are impacted by AUM's. The length of Public Comment is also a concern to Executive Director, that 30 days for communities is not enough time for comments on EE/CA's. Per NNEPA outreach needs to improve since the Chapters have re-opened back up.

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- Multi-Site Cooperative Agreement (MSCA) Tronox: Coordinated with the lead USEPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM) to have a Red Rock Landfill Tour, we suggested for Navajo Na-

tion Council, Thoreau Chapter Leaders, and Red Water Pond Road. There was no Navajo Nation leadership who attended either session. But Jim Dumount, NM Representative attended. RWPR was our primary attendees on August 9, 2023. Billy Moore, Red Rock Landfill presented a nice tour of the landfill, primarily concentrating on the location selected for the mine waste material. NN Delegates made the request to have the tour at another time, we considered that and set another date for the tour before the lead USEPA RPM, departed. There were no takers for the second tour.

- MSCA Tronox: The NNEPA Senior RPM (SRPM), On-Scene Coordinator (IPA), and Executive Director attended and presented along with USEPA, at the Thoreau Chapter information session, on Sunday, August 6, 2023. Also in attendance from NNEPA/ WRCD/ NSP were the Environmental Department Manager and Senior Environmental Specialist.

Division of General Services

Fleet Management Department

PROJECTS

Vehicle Acquisition

Project Contact: raymond holyan, jr, rholyan@navajo-nsn.gov

Replace higher mileage vehicles for PD and OPVP Secure fund balance from Fleet's generated revenue funds from previous years, took the longest time to execute due to language on budget manual. First, we thought we could get around any stipulations by having Executive Branch official make directive to draw down fund balance, however, we were overruled by OMB, just coordinating managers to get determination took time. However, we were able to accomplish fund balance transfer, by Mr. Dale and myself getting delegate Vince James to sponsor our bill, and thereafter I was able to attend oversight committee meeting and request for these funds, which was approved by the committee. We ran into problems thereafter, the vehicles that were solicited by us were sold by the vendor due to the length of time to secure purchase order, so we had to start from ground zero again, so we split OPVP vehicles from the PD units, so 8 vehicles were advertised and that's what we are working on currently. As for the PD vehicles we finally got new purchase prices for FY 2024 models so we will advertise these vehicles in the next few weeks. Fortunately, the funds that were transferred into our balance was able to roll over into our FY 2024 budget.

Fund Balance

Project Contact: raymond holyan, jr, rholyan@navajo-nsn.gov

The fund balance was approved by legislation HEHSC-16-23, so fund balance funds of \$4,450,940.00 was transfer into our current budget, which later rolled over into our FY 2024 budget, so acquisition of these needed vehicle can continue and completed in this fiscal year. Thank you to all parties involved, especially for delegate Vince James and committee members, plus OOC, OMB, and Chief of Staff for their assistance.

Outside Fuel Card

Project Contact: raymond holyan, jr, rholyan@navajo-nsn.gov

Our current vendor with Wright Express ended at the end of fiscal year 2023, so we had submitted RFP for the outside fuel card services. Unfortunately, Wright Express submitted their bid late thus causing us not to accept their bid, however, we had two other bids, Boyett Petroleum and Apex Petroleum. Boyett end up being awarded the contract so we are working on transitioning to Boyett, which will be completed by 11/30/23, in the meantime, we have a contract extension with Wright Express for two (2) more month, October & November, and that modification is currently at the President's office, however, the Wright Express official still needs to sign contract modification before President Nygren.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WEX contract modification

Accomplishment Date: 7/10/23

a. The Wright Express Fuel Card was successfully modified through the 164-review process, the modification allowed fleet to increase the contractual amount by \$1,000,000.00. The vendor (WEX) allowed fleet to continue operating while the modification went through the review process.

Fuel Pump Dispenser Upgrade

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

Completed new fuel pump dispenser installation,

the pumps were replaced by our contractor MCO. All replacement pumps were inspected and approved by Weights and Measurements department of the Navajo Nation.

Fund Balance Usage

Accomplishment Date: 8/22/23

Fund Balance Usage approved through 164-review, and passed by our oversight committee (HEHSC), thereafter the office of Management & Budget and Office of Controller were able to transfer funds into our FY-2023 budget.

GOALS

Increase Revenue

Explore possibilities of expanding fleet automotive services to other entities operating on the Navajo Nation (NTUA)

Goal Target Date: 12/15/23

Digital Transformation

Deploy RTA Cloud solution for all service centers.

Assess the current PC, and software for compatibility for all service centers.

- IT tech assessment with service centers
- Information transmission & updates
- Standardize VMRS
- Deploy trainer and trainings for users

Goal Target Date: 12/29/23

Networking & Outreach

Develop partnerships with various branches & departments/program on fleet oversight information (fuel, rental, user-rates, maintenance, etc.)

Seek out department/programs that have conference or meetings that would like for us to provide orientation on vehicles

- Standardize training material
- Coordinate schedule

Goal Target Date: 12/29/23

PROJECTS

Facility Infrastructure

Project Contact: Deputy Chief Ronald Silversmith, rsilversmith@navajo-nsn.gov

Relocating NDPS departments and staffing to better facilities: recently, the NDPS administration and Chief of Police administration moved to new office space, located behind the Quality Inn, Window Rock (2nd floor). A proposed building rental (former AZDES) will house NPD Information Management section and the Window Rock Police administration. The Window Rock Administration building lease in Fort Defiance will end in two years: currently this building is being used to house Dept. of Corrections administration, and NPD Auxiliary Services.

E911 Rural Addressing

Project Contact: Deputy Chief Leonard Redhorse, lredhorse@navajo-nsn.gov

Department of Corrections Facilities

Project Contact: Delores Greyeyes, Director, Department of Corrections, dgreyeyes@navajo-nsn.gov

Modular buildings (WR Corrections) approved and set up at the location in Fort Defiance is scheduled for October, 2023.

NDOC is continuously looking for any funds to facilitate the replacement of the Judicial Public Safety facilities. One of the last was NDOC submitting a plan for funding under the ARPA funds, however, our projects were not eligible for ARPA funding. NDOC looked into the possibilities of applying for the infrastructure grants and here again, NDOC was informed that the Judicial Public Safety projects were not eligible.

There are no funds to begin construction of the Judicial Public Safety facilities. These facilities are expensive and there are no grants or funding that will cover the entire cost of facilities at this point. The only federal funds that is available under the CTAS program, a federal grant opportunity limits the funding amount to \$1 million dollars. This grant is a competitive grant and is open to all tribes across the United States.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NN Operation Rainbow Bridge

Accomplishment Date: May 2023 to August 2023

NDPS departments: Police, Criminal Investigations, Emergency Management deployed to the Phoenix, AZ valley. This operation assisted with Navajo members who were reported to

have been displaced from sober living homes or residential facilities being shut down due to fraud allegations by the State of Arizona.

Working with the local law enforcement partners, contact was made with individuals, and afterwards, people were taken to a safe place, or if they wanted to go home to the reservation, it was arranged for them.

Missing Persons Unit

Accomplishment Date: FY 23

Navajo Police Department in collaboration with Dept of Criminal Investigations responded to the need for a Missing Person Unit. Also, in collaboration with the Resident Agencies (RA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) working Indian Country Crimes (ICC) on the Navajo Nation.

In an immediate large scale missing person response, notification is made to the FBI for immediate resources and entering the missing person into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), allowing for the data to be available to every criminal justice agency nationwide.

A proposal was created for a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Unit. The plan includes, a Plan of Operation, Standards and Requirements, Standard Operating Procedures, etc., with a start-up cost of \$4,367,420 and a recurring cost of \$2,262,501. This proposal remains unaddressed; however, Dept. of Criminal Investigations was awarded \$500,000 to go towards is missing person initiative.

Traffic and DUI Enforcement,Fire

Dept Salary Adjustment,Fire Academy,E911 Rural Addressing

Accomplishment Date: NN Fairs, August 2023, July 2023, December 2024

Traffic and DUI enforcements are conducted during the Navajo Nation Fairs: Eastern, Central and Window Rock. The purpose is to screen motorists for drunk driving related offenses and roadway safety.,A Pay Plan study was conducted by Department of Personnel: this study was completed and now all personnel have an increase in pay, including retro pay, this has lifted the moral for the department.,The Fire Academy was successfully completed. Three fire fighters challenged and tested for the IFSAC certification, which includes Hazardous Materials -operation level certification.

Five more fire fighter recruits will begin the Fire Academy in October, 2023.,The Request for Proposal for services for SME procurement was made and under advertisement.

The land and site negotiations with Kayenta Township is currently being completed.

NTUA sharing agreement is being established for geo sites of end users for addressing points.

FIBER estimates for service being established for two sites.

Addressing and 911 meetings are ongoing at the Agency level.

\$0 of \$35 million encumbered. An RFP is set at \$6.3 million to encumber

GOALS

Facility Infrastructure

To relocate NDPS departments to safer, more efficient office space. To date, we have DPS departments at several locations, which makes it hard for personnel to conduct daily duties. Our goal is to house every together or near each other.

Goal Target Date: End of FY 24 First Quarter

Purchase Card Audit

NDPS is currently sanctioned by the Auditor General's office for the past two administrations. To date, an audit is being completed and our goal is to get NDPS out of the sanction.

Goal Target Date: End of FY 24 First Quarter

DPS Staffing

To get positions filled for DPS Department Management: Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director, Propose Deputy Division Director.

Goal Target Date: End of FY 24 First quarter

Navajo Department of Health

Navajo Department of Health

PROJECTS

Standing up the NDOH Regulatory Infrastructure

Project Contact: Michelle Morris, Kim.Russell@navajo-nsn.gov

As a Public Health Authority, the NDOH serves to protect people from health problems and health hazards. One way this is accomplished is by standing up a regulatory foundation which allows for the NDOH to regulate entities and services. For example, the Office of Environmental Health provides training for community members and food vendors to prepare food safely to the public, and if services are not provided in a safe manner, they have the authority to shut down the operation and business. This function is also important to ensure that buildings on the Nation are safe to enter and use.

The NDOH is working on standing up the Non-Emergency Medical Transport Certification Process so that it can provide a checks and balances for businesses who provide highly needed medical transport to appointments, many of which are hundreds of miles away, off reservation. These businesses are crucial in getting our relatives to needed services but in

a safe manner. The pandemic created a need for this function to be lifted and allow for only states to serve as gate keepers but for only Medicaid reimbursement. NEMT Navajo owned businesses deserve to run their businesses and NDOH is working closely with DPS, Economic Development, and the Tax Commission on this initiative. In the future, the regulatory infrastructure of NDOH may extend beyond ensuring safe facilities, safe food, and NEMT companies.

Arizona State Legislation and Rules (Increasing the Oversight of Sober Living Homes and other providers)

Project Contact: Kim Russell, Kim.Russell@navajo-nsn.gov

The Sober Living Home Medicaid Fraud scheme occurring in Arizona led to many of our relatives being taken to so called sober living facilities, where treatment to drug and substance use was promised to them, but often times this was not the instance. This financial scheme impacted many American Indian people and our relatives which led them to be displaced when Arizona's Medicaid program began suspending providers. Relatives are now presenting in the streets of Phoenix metropolitan with no place to live along with their families, thus, Operation Rainbow Bridge was activated to respond. The Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Service staff are on the ground providing referrals to relatives along with basic needs, such as food, clothing, bus tickets home and hotel stays. More policy change is needed at the state level to include amending current state law and updating and making stronger rules so that the State can provide greater oversight of facilities. NDOH along with NDOJ, DPS and other partners will work closely with the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment

System, AZ Attorney General's Office and the Office of the AZ Governor to close loopholes to this fraud scheme and provide stricter oversight to off reservation services. These actions will take the form of advocating for state law to be amended and working with tribal and state lawmakers to pass good law. As well as, opening up the rule making process for Arizona.

Building out the Office of the Medical Director

Project Contact: Kim Russell, Kim.Russell@navajo-nsn.gov

In the NDOH Plan of Operations is the Office of the Medical Director. This Office is nonfunctioning at this time but has much potential to be an essential part of protecting and promoting the health of the Navajo people. A trained medical doctor can assist the Nation by providing medical advice to health initiatives and projects from a clinical and scientific point of view. Initiatives within this office can include addressing chronic and infectious diseases, health systems development, bridging clinical and public health and so much more. Within this office, it could contain a medical examiner which the Nation sorely needs. The first step is creating the Medical Director position and finding a talented, visionary medical director who can lead this office.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Opioid Epidemic

Accomplishment Date: Ongoing

The Opioid Epidemic across the country has resulted in many needless overdose deaths,

many of which could have been prevented by Naloxone distribution into communities. The NDOH has done our part on submitting the policy for review and has conducted the first Tribal Opioid Summit in collaboration with the Navajo Area Office Indian Health Service. Next steps, include making naloxone training and supplies available to public safety and other partners so that it is readily available for all to use to save lives. Prevention is key but how do we continue to look upstream. How do we begin to invest in our youth, so they do not go down the road of drugs and alcohol? With the infusion of Opioid Settlement dollars, we have an opportunity to set systems and foundations in place to address the opioid and other drug related ills of our Nation. Here are a few ideas to share: 1) Navajo Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (includes pay back to the Nation to serve), 2) Bolster and Invest in the Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services prevention programming, especially with youth, and 3) Build out the Office of Traditional Medicine so that a greater cultural approach to clean living and cultural practices of healing can be enhanced.

Opening up Wellness Centers

Accomplishment Date: Ongoing

Across the Nation, several wellness centers are reopening, and we will have a grand opening this week in Tuba City. More centers to be opened include one in Shiprock and Kayenta in the near future.

Navajo WIC achieves high breastfeeding rates across the Nation

Accomplishment Date: July 2023

The Navajo Nation WIC Program received good news that of all the WIC programs in the nation, we were #10, for the rate of Mothers on the WIC program breastfeeding their children up to one year of age. It can be a challenge for moms to breastfeed children but through education, promotion, and support from our WIC program, we are making it more accessible and acceptable. Mothers should be encouraged to breastfeed their children for at least 1 year. The longer an infant is breastfed, the greater the protection from certain illnesses and long-term diseases. We are setting our young children on a good path and will continue to widen and make the path more accessible moving forward.

GOALS

Filling Administrative Leadership Position

1. Reclassify positions so that they meet the needs of the Department. For example, establish a Deputy Director position by reclassifying the Health Services Administrator (Executive) position. 2. Kick positions in grievance process out. This will allow for hiring of the key Division of Aging and Long Term Care Support Division Director to be hired. (almost done) 3. Hire Key leadership positions- 1) Principal Accountant, 2) Accountant, 3) Contract Analyst, 4) Public Information Officer, 5) Medical Director, 6) Public Health Division Director

Goal Target Date: December 2023

Working across programs

1) Each Division (Behavioral and Mental Health, Aging and Long Term Care, and Public Health) understand the function and goals of

one another. 2) Provide lunch and shares and presentations to staff on all programs so that collaborative programming can occur. 3) Develop common goals to achieve and measure them along the way. 4) All agree on the NDOH Mission and Vision.

Goal Target Date: Ongoing

Budget Spendown

1. Understand the amount of funds programs need to spend down. 2. Create spend down plan to get near to \$0 by end of fiscal year. 3. Encourage programs to think outside of box to use funding to better programming and services to the People. 4. Implement a 30/30/30/10 spend down plan for each quarter and track progress.

Goal Target Date: September 2024

Navajo Epidemiology Center

PROJECTS

Navajo Cancer Epidemiology Report

Project Contact: Del Yazzie, dely@navajo-nsn.gov

The Navajo Cancer Epidemiology Workgroup supports the efforts of Navajo Nation leaders and health programs in improving cancer prevention, education, and treatment through cancer data. The workgroup aims to: 1) Evaluate and improve cancer data quality and monitoring; 2) Empower and engage communities about cancer prevention; 3) Produce Navajo specific cancer reports to inform and educate tribal

leaders, community members, public health professionals, medical providers, Navajo health program managers, and local, state, and federal partners. The workgroup will be producing its Cancer Among the Navajo Report, 2014-2020 on October 31, 2023. The report examines cancer incidence (new cases), stage of diagnosis, mortality (deaths), trends, and cancer screening (breast, colon, cervical) behaviors among the Navajo people. The report will be made available on the Navajo Epidemiology Center website – www.nec.navajo-nsn.gov.

Healthy Homes, Healthy People Project - Hantavirus Disease Prevention & Education

Project Contact: Del Yazzie, dely@navajo-nsn.gov

Over the past 30 years on Navajo Nation, more than 140 people have died from Hantavirus. When people get hantavirus infection, the disease can be very severe—some patients need to be airlifted to major hospitals for intensive care, and about one in three patients with hantavirus infection do not survive. The virus is spread to people by deer mice, which are part of our natural environment. Because deer mice will always be in the environment, a way that we can prevent hantavirus infection among our people is by finding ways to reduce mouse infestations in our homes and by making sure that people know safe ways to clean up when they have mouse infestations.

The Healthy Homes, Healthy People Project partnership has identified 100 vulnerable homes for direct intervention at Littlewater Chapter Community. Through support from CDC and CDC Foundation, the project is hiring, training and equipping local carpenters to identify and seal off likely rodent access points. And through generous funding and product donations from Reckitt

Benckiser Company, the project was able to purchase and procure project supplies, facilitate partnership building and provide program coordination.

COVID-19 Disease Surveillance

Project Contact: David Foley, dlfoley@navajo-nsn.gov

The Navajo Epidemiology Center (NEC) continues to play a critical role in assisting with making COVID-19 data-driven decisions by collecting and analyzing data and using them to develop appropriate strategies and activities on the Navajo Nation. NEC is working with partners (tribal programs, IHS, 638 tribal organizations, state health departments, academic institutions, non-profit programs, and CDC), to conduct COVID-19 disease surveillance and manage the data to help with data visualization. NEC also shares its monthly COVID-19 situational awareness reports with leaders, partners and general public to help with making informed decisions. The report covers incidence, mortality, hospitalization and patient transfers, and vaccine coverage. The report can be found on the Navajo Epidemiology Center website – <https://nec.navajo-nsn.gov/Projects/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19>.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Navajo Cancer Report, 2014-2020

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The Navajo Cancer Epidemiology Workgroup was formed in 1999. Representatives from various organizations make up the workgroup voluntarily – New Mexico Tumor Registry, Arizona Cancer

Registry, Utah Cancer Registry, Indian Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, University of North Carolina, Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, and Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment. The workgroup produced its first Navajo Cancer Report in 2011; produced its second report in 2018; and now nearing its third production report in Oct 2023. The report will cover cancer incidence (new cases), stage of diagnosis, mortality (deaths), trends, and cancer screening (breast, colon, cervical) behaviors among the Navajo people. In addition, the report provides recommendations and resources to improve cancer prevention and care on the Navajo Nation. The report will be made available on the Navajo Epidemiology Center website – www.nec.navajo-nsn.gov.

Healthy Homes, Healthy People Project

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The project team consists of Littlewater Chapter officials, manager, carpenters, surveyors, CDC medical doctors, epidemic intelligence officers, epidemiologists, and Navajo Epidemiology Center staff. The team has assessed and selected 100 homes to conduct minor home repairs and patch up holes to prevent mice from entering within the Littlewater Chapter Community. As of September 30, 2023, 65/100 have been repaired. The team has also conducted Hantavirus disease prevention education and to all household members of the 100 homes. Through generous funding (\$100K) and product donations (bleach, mouse traps, disinfecting wipes, steel wool, mop, latex gloves, etc.) from Reckitt Benckiser Company, the project was able to purchase project supplies, facilitate partnership building and provide project coordination.

COVID-19 Disease Surveillance Monthly Reporting

Accomplishment Date: September 30, 2023

On March 17, 2020, the first clinically confirmed case of COVID-19 among a resident of the Navajo Nation was reported to the Navajo Epidemiology Center/Navajo Department of Health. To date (September 30, 2023), the Navajo Epidemiology Center continues to surveil COVID-19 disease on the Navajo Nation. For the month of September 2023, there were 666 new cases and 7 deaths. To date, there are a total of 85,852 confirmed cases, 2,207 total deaths. The COVID-19 epidemiology team continues to meet monthly to discuss disease surveillance, testing, vaccine coverage analytics, hospitalization, and health messaging. The latest situation report can be found at: <https://nec.navajo-nsn.gov/Projects/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19>.

Other NEC accomplishments Q4 FY23

Accomplishment Date: September 30, 2023

- NEC collaborated with the Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Service to host a two-day traditional and Cultural Summit on June 21-22, 2023. A total of 219 (84 Males and 134 Females) participants participated in the event and received T-shirts.
- NEC partnership with Chinle IHS Health Promotion Disease Prevention Department to host the Suicide Prevention Conference on July 26, 2023. NEC provided catering services for 160 people (123 female, 31 Male, and 6 other) and paid for the advertisement fee to display suicide prevention conference flyers in Navajo Times.
- NEC collaborated with the Division of Social Service Financial Assistance Unit to help 57 families/individuals with \$3,500.00 who lost a family member through COVID-19. A total amount of \$195,889.93 was spent on COVID-19 Burial Assistance.
- Hired a Contract Analyst, Senior Program and Project Specialist, and Community Health Research Technician.
- NEC partnership with the Division of Social Services, Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services, and Navajo Health Program to provide a total of 1,000 PPE supplies (face masks, disinfectant spray, Clorox wipes, digital thermometer, hand soap, and powder gloves) to our Dine people.
- NEC collaborated with the Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Service and the Navajo Nation Police Department to identify families or individuals going through a mental health crisis to receive a mental health crisis kit. A total of 500 kits (250 Adults and 250 Children) were purchased and split evenly between the two departments.
- NEC worked with the Navajo Department of Health Programs to create and deliver preventable public health messages. A total of 18 newspaper ads were published in the Navajo Times; 6 newspaper ads were printed in Gallup Independent; 1250 flyers (Understanding Hantavirus, Know the difference between health exhaustion and heat stroke and Heat Advisory) were printed; 200 booklets (Prevention Strategies to Keep Mice out of Your Home) printed; 48 banners (Understanding Hantavirus); and 4 PSA (COVID -19 vs Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Sexually Transmitted Infection and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Diabetes

Awareness on Physically Activity & Diabetes Prevention Education) was shared on KTNN, KKNS, KWRK, and KCAZ radio stations and 1 PSA (Covid-19 Prevention) was shared on KGA Radio Station.

- Conducted stroke analysis from Navajo Nation Health Survey data.
- Started work on updating the Fatal Car Crash report--added new car crashes to the file, pinned these crashes on maps, began cleaning the data.
- Coordinated communication between partners for a Tularemia case.
- Assisted Dr. Brandser in creating charts for data collected for Operation Rainbow Bridge response efforts.
- Consulted with Navajo Health Education Program In preparing their Navajo Nation Research Conference presentation on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey report results.
- Created a full-page newspaper ad for NEC Navajo Nation Health Survey and was published in the Navajo Times and Gallup Independent (2 times in Navajo Times and 3 times in Gallup Independent).
- Created diabetes fact sheet using data from previous Navajo Nation Health Survey (will be presented during Navajo Nation Research Conference in October)
- NEC data collection work through Navisite will be standing up cloud services for NEC and the Navajo Department of Health (NDOH), which includes 4 virtual machines, 1 network, 2 application, 1 webserver and 2 database. Navisite will also provide managed database services and a virtual information security officer that will oversee Navajo Epidemiology Center network and traffic with 24-hour emergency support services.

GOALS

Enhance epi workforce that includes recruitment, retention and training

“Placementship” of an epidemiology post-doctoral fellow within Navajo Epidemiology Center:

Our vision of this “Placementship” is that Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Center for Indigenous Health and Infectious Disease Dynamics will recruit an epidemiology post-doctoral fellow, who JHU will fund, will be an employee of JHU, but will be embedded within the Navajo Epidemiology Center.

This will be an epidemiology post-doctoral fellow with a PhD degree and expertise in infectious disease modeling and epidemiology who is interested in applied public health.

JHU is also in discussion with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), who are a partner of JHU, to have the epidemiology post-doctoral fellow spend a month with CDPH to get insights into how they function, use data, apply modeling, and translate and communicate this modeling for public health action and policy.

CDPH has a dedicated modeling team and thus provides a great environment for a crash course in how modeling can be integrated into a public health institution.

Following the short stint with CDPH, the epidemiology post-doctoral fellow will start with NEC, where they will not only provide individual dedication to the questions and needs in the Navajo Nation, but also be a bridge for broader

engagement with the JHU Infectious Disease Dynamics group and our academic and public health partners elsewhere.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Continue to create new and strengthen existing partnerships through defined expectations and effective communication

i. Build capacity to respond to disease outbreaks by creating data use agreements, protocols for data sharing and analytics, etc. so we are ready when needed.

ii. Establish surge capacity at JHU and NEC for people to be sent places if needed.

iii. Continue maintenance of infectious disease modeling work.

iv. Continue coordination of the Scenario Modeling Hub.

v. Continue development of models for forecasting and scenario projection, etc.

vi. Expand models to arboviruses and sexually transmitted infections.

vii. Expand models to higher spatial and social resolution – this will aim to be able to be used in populations like the Navajo Nation, county level estimates (instead of just state or national), subpopulations, etc.

viii. Apply the models (from 3 and 4 above) in the populations of public health partners and in collaboration with NEC.

ix. Develop new data streams and integration into models and analytics tools.

x. Explore training opportunities for NEC and Navajo Department of Health.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Enhancing disease surveillance capacity infrastructure through cloud-based computing

i. Continue the development of computing services—including servers, storage, databases, networking, software, analytics, and intelligence—over the internet (“the cloud”).

ii. Continue to collaborate with Navisite in the development of cloud-based computing.

iii. Review NN/DIT information technology policy.

iv. Draft NN/NDOH information technology policy.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Navajo Uranium Workers Program

PROJECTS

FY23 NUWP Strategic Plan

Project Contact: Theo Shorty, Program Manager, tshorty@navajo-nsn.gov

Develop and complete a strategic plan that i in line with the Navajo Natin OP/VP priorities and the FY24 Navajo Nation Council Approved Budget Performance Measures.

Update and bring to currend NUWP Plan of OPeration

Project Contact: Theo Shorty, tshorty@navajo-nsn.gov

Update Plan of Operation for NUWP to include the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 200, what we call Part B and Part E, and the Black Lung Benefits act of 1969.

Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act which set to expire on June 10, 2024, currently has a good chance of reauthorization through the reconciliation of S.1751 an H.R.442 6, Radiation Compensation Act Amendments of 2023.

Will provide post 1971 miners who have a compensable illness to file a claim through NUWP

Will expand downwinder service area to include the state of New Mexico

Will approve a study which will document impacts of individuals (children and spouse, others) who lived at uranium mining camp sites with miners.

Authorizing our office to file Black Lund Disease claims for coal miners will be a free services available to form coal miners who are experiencing symptoms of Black Lund Disease

NUWP will work with NDOH Executive Office to schedule work session with the Navajo Nation Council oversight committee Health, Education a

Human Services Committee to achieve approval of Plan of Operation Amendments.

Training on Black Lund Disease with US Department of Labor

Project Contact: Theo Shorty, tshorty@navajo-nsn.gov

Curently Navajo claimants have to file a claim on their own with US Department of Labor.

There is no Navajo Nation sanctioned program who assist former coal miners to file a claim.

NUWP will work with US Department of Labor to schedule date and time of training.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Outreach

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

We have completed regional outreach activities on the Arizona side of the Navajo Nation, participate in the US Environmental Protection Agency Abandoned Uranium Mine Reclamation update community meetings, and active in the US Department of Energy Uranium Legacy Management Community Outreach Network activities.Budget

FY23 Budget Performance Measures

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

In the FY23 4th Quarter NUWP far exceeded performance measurements

1. Case Management - made contact with 41 current clients.

2. Outreach /Education: participated in 10 community related outreach / education opportunities.

3. Client Enrollment - enrolled 13 new clients

4. Referrals to Radiation Exposure Screening Education Program - 13 referrals made including post 1971 miners who would be eligible to file a claim if the proposed reauthorization of the Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act of 2023 is approved by Congress and signed into law by President Biden.

5. Oversight Committee - Oversight Committee had an opportunity to ask question during the budget planning, review, and approval process.

GOALS

NUWP FY24 Strategic Plan

Ensure NUWP has a clear direction of goals and performance measures in-line with the OP/VP mission, vision, core values and priorities which are also in-line with the Navajo Nation Council approved budget performance measures.

Goal Target Date: 31-Oct-23

Update NUWP Plan of Operation

Ensure NUWP Plan of Operation is updated and includes all services provided by the program. Work closely with the NDOH Executive Office and Navajo Nation Council Health, Education, and Human Services Committee. Ensure oversight committee is given an opportunity to participate

and provide recommendations and approval of the NUWP Plan of Operation

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

US DOL approval of Black Lung Disease Claims Processor

US DOL is supportive of providing a training of the processing of the Black Lung Disease claims by NUWP

Work with NDOH Executive Office and NNC oversight committee to include the service in the Plan of Operation and approval.

Initiate outreach and public relations on NUWP being a service provider of the Black Lung Disease Claims Filing provider free of charge to Navajo constituents.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Cancer Prevention Program

PROJECTS

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Project Contact: Curtis Briscoe, curtisbriscoe@navajo-nsn.gov

Community outreach in conjunction with breast cancer awareness month with the intention of 1000 educational contacts.

Mobile Mammography

Project Contact: Curtis Briscoe, curtisbriscoe@navajo-nsn.gov

Increase the number of program-eligible and overall women using mobile mammography screening services by approximately 5%.

Cervical Cancer Screening

Project Contact: Curtis Briscoe, curtisbriscoe@navajo-nsn.gov

Increase the number of clinic partners who provide program eligible client cervical cancer screening by at least 1 facility.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Health Community Event

Accomplishment Date: 19-Jul-23

Back to school community event that had over a dozen tribal and community education booths and 60 community member attending. School supplies were provided to school age children.

Mobile Mammography Event In August

Accomplishment Date: 24-Aug-23

The program made changes to its Contract of mobile mammography services for a 5-year period. This change allowed the program to provide this service for the first time during the month of August in 10 years which saw 77 clients served. The program is expected to continue this in subsequent years.

Program Partner Meeting

Accomplishment Date: 28-Sep-23

Program began quarterly public health partner meetings with 14 attendees. Presentations focused on breast cancer, current screening guidelines, and program services. It is expected these will be done quarterly for this Program Year.

GOALS

Carryover

Process carryover into new budget year with primary focus on increasing available cancer screening funds.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Community Partnership

Work with 1 new community partner on outreach and/or mammography screening activities.

Goal Target Date: 31-Oct-23

Clinic Partnership

Work with a health care facility to agree on partnership to provide cancer screening location for services.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Navajo Special Diabetes Program

PROJECTS

Community-Based Fitness Activity Education

Project Contact: Rodgina Paul, rodgina.paul@navajo-nsn.gov

Community-Based Fitness Activities with Physical Activity Education: NSDP conducts weekly community-based physical activity events and education that includes SDPI Physical Activity Education Best Practice Toolkits; Project Adventure; hiking, biking, and walking/running series; and group fitness activities. Education and events are held in-person or virtual within the communities at schools, dormitories, chapters, faith-based organizations, local organizations, and governmental programs.

Community

Project Contact: Rodgina Paul, rodgina.paul@navajo-nsn.gov

Community-Based Diabetes Education: NSDP shall provide weekly education about diabetes prevention to improve self-care behavior utilizing Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (ADCES) modules and guidelines, SDPI Diabetes Education Prevention Program Toolkit, SDPI Healthy Heart Project Toolkit, and the National Diabetes Prevention Program Prediabetes Risk Test. Education shall be provided virtual and in-person at schools, dormitories, chapters, faith-based organizations,

local organizations and governmental programs. Begin to assess the feasibility of becoming CDC-recognized as a National Diabetes Prevention Program.

Community-Based Nutrition Education

Project Contact: Rodgina Paul, rodgina.paul@navajo-nsn.gov

Community-Based Nutrition Education: NSDP shall increase knowledge and skills of healthy eating to reduce the risk of developing diabetes by utilizing SDPI Nutrition Education Best Practices Toolkits, MyPlate toolkits, workshops, and food demonstrations. Education shall be provided virtual and in-person at schools, dormitories, chapters, faith-based organizations, local organizations, and governmental programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collaboration with Indian Health Service

Accomplishment Date: Jul-23

Collaboration with Indian Health Service - Chinle has been established and in continuation to provide overall diabetes education. Initial discussion began at the beginning of the year, 2023. However, due to minimal barriers, the project prolonged until logistics were concrete. This collaborated service allows community members to gain knowledge of diabetes, create a support system, and physical activity. The service is available on Tuesdays in a group setting with collaboration with the health professions of IHS. This approach focuses on diabetes prevention and management with referrals from the

hospital. Currently, there are about 17 dedicated participants who join each session on a weekly basis.

Visit Modular Solutions

Accomplishment Date: Jul-23

The Kayenta and Shiprock Wellness Center has been an ongoing project as of 2016. The project includes two modular buildings serving the community as Wellness Centers.

The modular buildings were viewed by the 4 program employees in July 2023. The buildings were inspected and viewed due to the request of Modular Solutions and the need to view the project to meet CPMD and NSDP requirements. The buildings are 100% complete and awaiting final approval for utility connection from NTUA.

Additional funding was initiated through Unmet Needs and continues to go through the process of approval.

Discussion of Reopening Tuba City Wellness Center

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

The Tuba City Wellness Center has been closed for almost a decade. The advocacy from the community and staff to reopen the facility was initiated with the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation (TCRHCC). Many discussions between Ms. Joan Gray, Mr. Julius Young and the hospital took place and resulted to a date of the Grand Re-Opening set for October 19, 2023. The endless support of the hospital and the staff has played a monumental role in accomplishing the project.

GOALS

Hiring and On-boarding

The goal is to bring five (5) staff on board by 12/31/2023. As of September 01, 2023, there are currently seven (7) staff awaiting background approval through IMS. Three (3) interviews are scheduled during October 16-27, 2023. The goal is to get all ten (10) staff on board; however, with the provisional hire, NSDP does not qualify as we fall within the Criteria 1. Provisional hire is taking precedence over the NSDP and other programs within criteria 1. With the barrier, NSDP is currently at a 50% vacancy rate. With the goal of five (5) staff onboard by December 31, 2023, this will put the vacancy rate at 44%. If we were to have all staff on board, we would be at a 38% vacancy rate.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Unmet Needs for Wellness Centers

Receive an update on Unmet Needs by October 20, 2023, if approved, have the funds reflect in our budget by November 09, 2023. This will allow us to set a date to transport the Wellness Centers to the communities of Kayenta and Shiprock by the end of the year or early next spring, weather and utilities dependent.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Step Increase for all employees

Before my arrival, NSDP has always been delinquent in submitting the Employee Performance Appraisal (EPAF) resulting in the inability to initiate step-increases throughout the program. As of October 13, 2023, there are currently five (5) outstanding EPAFs to

complete. This will all be completed by October 31, 2023 if not earlier to initiate the step increase throughout the program by November 17th, 2023.

Goal Target Date: 10/31/23

Navajo Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

PROJECTS

Emergency Response- Operation Chinle Flood

Project Contact: Lyla Smallcanyon- Navajo DEM,
lsmallcanyon@navajo-nsn.gov

The efforts of prioritizing Emergency Response efforts in addressing flooding events, which began in April of 2023 have continued throughout the year to current dates. Obstacles that have come to light are based specifically on understanding that the understanding of Emergency Response efforts are not understood by all parties, in the case the Chinle Chapter needs continued education to truly identify the differences between an emergency response and what is considered normal operations that are based on long-term operations and maintenance events. These discrepancies were influential in missing reimbursement opportunities.

OPERATION RAINBOW BRIDGE

Project Contact: Thomas Cody- Incident
Commander, thomas.cody@nndss.org

Operation Rainbow Bridge was stood up with an Incident Command Structure in May of 2023. This priority of this effort was to capture our Navajo family members who would be coming out of sober living facilities who were being investigated for fraudulent billing practices. Through this effort 9 missing persons have been identified and returned home. Hundreds of our Navajo families have been able to find legitimate sober living facilities to further continue with services they need. We have also been able to return Navajo families back to Navajo. The current efforts are on-going under the emergency declaration with efforts to interpret data for what would be the most appropriate next steps.

Navajo Nation Safety and Emergency Management Team

Project Contact: Dr. Ferlin Clark/ DODE, fclark@navajo-nsn.gov

Navajo PHEP, along with Navajo DPS, provided assistance to Navajo DODE to develop Safety/ Emergency Response plans for the schools on Navajo. This effort then identified that the Navajo Nation's Governmental body was also lacking an overarching Emergency Response Plan. This started detailed discussions on how that needed to be addressed, which brought the identification that the Navajo Department of Emergency Management, along with the Navajo Nation's Commission on Emergency Management all needed to be participants in this effort. The goal will be to have a fully functional Department of Emergency Management that can act alone as a primary response arm of the Navajo Nation and be pivotal in coordinating response efforts with all and other Navajo entities. The structure is based on the National template that is utilized and is known as the "Incident Command System".

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Operation Extreme Heat

Accomplishment Date: 8/31/23

Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management, along with Navajo Office of the President and Vice President signed into effect the "Extreme Heat" emergency declaration on July 25, 2023. Navajo Department of Health (NDOH) Programs, Navajo Community Health Representative (CHR) Program and Navajo Health Education (HE) Program were already working with the 110 Chapters well in advance of the Emergency Declaration and had started prioritizing Chapters that needed immediate help, educating on heat related illnesses and how to protect themselves; delivering water to their High-Risk clients, including clients with limited family support, no running water, or no transportation, within their communities as their Chapter house may have had limited resources to deliver; and check and monitor their High-Risk elders and their families, and continue to assist by connecting families with local resources that are readily available at their local Chapter houses. Some service units were able to collaborate with other outside entities such as BIA- Gallup Office and St. Mary's for water donations. Navajo Department of Community Development (DCD) also contributed direct communicated information on which Chapters were readily available to assist and serve as cooling stations, and which chapters were already providing water to their communities. NDOH Division of Aging & Long Term Care Support (DALTCS) and also the NDOH Special Diabetes Program who also offered up their facilities as cooling stations. With the signing of the Emergency Declaration, Navajo Department of Emergency Management was able to begin providing assistance with funding for

resources that were needed. As of August 31, 2023, the Commission on Emergency Management stood down the emergency declaration, of the 110 Chapters, 92 Chapters were provided assistance successfully or otherwise identified themselves as being capable of helping their communities. Although the emergency declaration has ended, the CHR Program staff are continuing to assist and identify families without running water and/or no air conditioning within their home to local resources. Navajo DEM also continues to coordinate with NDOH programs with the planned delivery of water to 18 Chapters. The effort put forth by all parties involved was very successful and will continue.

Nakai Hall Clean-Up

Accomplishment Date: 8/18/23

Navajo PHEP led the effort of addressing the Nation's COVID-19 Strategic Stockpile, which had been staged at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds, inside "Raymond Nakai Hall". Navajo DOH started the process on July 24, 2023. The first three weeks it was primarily NDOH staff that assisted with pushing out the stockpile items utilizing ICS-213 forms to distribute stockpiled items to Navajo Divisions/Departments, Chapters, etc. Here is a breakdown of events starting on July 24, 2023 and ending August 18, 2023.

The effort of relocating and distributing our Navajo Strategic Stockpile from the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration was intensive and extremely difficult. The Strategic Stockpile should have been managed in a different manner with items being distributed while being replenished, unfortunately the manner it was managed, Navajo did more hoarding than managing a revolving distribution event...which created a massive stockpile.

A strategic stockpile is very much needed in the event of unforeseeable emergencies. We should always be prepared to address any event. Since we pushed all of our stockpile out, we have a very limited supply of emergency response items. What we will need is a facility that will house response items and equipment. I had mentioned this verbally before, and I want to maintain the identification of that need.

Chapter Emergency Response Planning

Accomplishment Date: Pending

Navajo PHEP reached out to former Navajo DCD Director, Calvin Castillo to begin planning efforts to assist 110 Chapters with developing Emergency Response Plans as identified through approved budgets for "Emergencies" and the condition of appropriations that existed with that. Director Castillo had planned separate meetings with the 110 Chapters beginning in the Fiscal Year, but since he has stepped down, we will need to revisit this effort with newly appointed DCD Director Arbin Mitchell.

GOALS

Negotiate PHEP funding with Utah and New Mexico

High Priority as Navajo PHEP currently operates with funding from Arizona Department of Health and as such allow funding of operations for the Arizona (only) Chapters. This also identifies we would need to work with not only Region 9 (Az), but also Region 6(NM) and Region 8(Utah).

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Stand Down Operation Chinle Flood

The on-going state of the Chinle Flood Emergency needs to be book ended with a stand down date that would then eliminate misconceptions of "who" should be paying for events regarding the flood response. This puts a definitive end to the emergency and returns all future planning and effort back to the community of Chinle.

Goal Target Date: 11/30/23

Safety and Emergency Management Team

This is a high priority that would culminate in solid planning to pull DEM from out of DPS and having it be a stand alone "Division" under OPVP or even under the Legislative body. This plan would require funding and staffing, with the immediate appointment of a Director. This will help streamline the process of addressing other emergencies that hit the Navajo Nation.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Navajo Division of Behavioral & Mental Health Services

PROJECTS

Operation Rainbow Bridge (ORB)

Project Contact: Dr. Michelle Brandser,
mbrandser@navajo-nsn.gov

In May 2023, DBMHS began meeting with OPVP, DOJ, DSS, NDOH and other Navajo Nation organizations regarding fraudulent group homes in Phoenix or southern Arizona under Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). DBMHS continues to work under the Incident Command System (ICS) to respond to this incident with the Operations Section Lead, Dr. Michelle Brandser, to help displaced Navajo tribal members to be enrolled with a licensed, qualified treatment facility for further treatment services, to return home to Navajo Nation with follow-up wraparound services, and/or to connect to other housing resources if they prefer to stay in Phoenix, AZ. By declaring a state of emergency regarding ORB, it opens the amount of resources a program can put forth towards this operation. DBMHS Regional Behavioral Health Authority has been assisting with this operation and placement of Navajo tribal members. DBMHS also assists with maintaining Navajo Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NRBHA) staff at the ORB Incident Command Post (ICP) in Mesa, AZ, daily and weekly reporting, transportation provided by our Navajo Regional Behavioral Health Center (NRBHC) staff members, and establishing a Sober Living Center in Chinle, AZ in October 2023.

Chinle Sober Living Center

Project Contact: Dr. Michelle Brandser,
mbrandser@navajo-nsn.gov

On June 16, 2023, the Navajo Nation declared a Public Health State of Emergency for Navajo tribal members affected by the humanitarian crises arising from exploitative treatment/sober housing, fraudulent activities, and unlicensed facilities targeting Native American population. In response, the planning and implement of the first Navajo Nation Sober Living Center (SLC) began and is scheduled to open by October 30, 2023 with our first residents. The

Chinle SLC is expected to serve four to five (4-5) adult females with identified women and children accommodations and four to five (4-5) adult males with identified men and children accommodations.

DBMHS Residential Clinical Services Consultant, DBMHS ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund Projects

Project Contact: Dr. Michelle Brandser, Dr. Michelle Brandser, mbrandser@navajo-nsn.gov, mbrandser@navajo-nsn.gov

DBMHS publicly advertised three (3) Request for Qualifications for qualified Behavioral and Mental Health organizations/consultants to assist DBMHS with the delivery of residential clinical treatment services (individual, group and family counseling) and case management services at treatment centers based on needs of the program. The residential organization/consultant will implement a preferred ASAM Level of Care 3.3 or minimum 3.1 residential treatment services at two (2) residential centers in Shiprock, NM and Chinle, AZ. The organization/consultant will assist DBMHS with building infrastructure for two (2) additional facilities to provide residential treatment services at ASAM Level 3.3 in Tuba City, AZ and Crownpoint, NM proposed for 2023/2024. DBMHS will determine whether an organization/consultant is deemed qualified based on a set of identified criteria. Two (2) RFQ are under review and will begin the 164 process., DBMHS has facility construction projects for Detox and Residential Treatment Centers with funding in the amount of \$15,243,7500.00 under K211554. Additionally, DBMHS has facility construction project for Transitional Housing for Recovery with funding in the amount of \$4,000,000.00. We are working with NDOH and DCD to establish a plan to initiate projects and begin an expenditure plan for ARPA and Fiscal Recovery Fund projects.

Ongoing meetings have been scheduled to discuss and implement these projects. The expected outcome is to build the behavioral health system infrastructure on Navajo Nation to better assist the Navajo/Native American population.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Youth and Elder Summit

Accomplishment Date: 7/21/23

DBMHS held its Youth and Elder Summit on July 12-13, 2023 at the DBMHS Chinle Outpatient Treatment Center in Chinle, AZ.

Operation Veterans Wellness

Accomplishment Date: 7/21/23

The Operation Veterans Wellness was held on July 21, 2023 at the Gallup Sports Complex. This event included presentations and education focusing on mental health and providing resources for veterans and their families. The 2023 Veteran's Wellness Conference was held on October 5, 2023 at Red Rock Park, Gallup, NM. This event included presentations focusing on substance use, mental health and traditional healing topics for veterans and their families.

1st Annual Center of Harmony and Recovery, Navajo Opioid Summit

Accomplishment Date: 09/28-19/23

The first annual Navajo Opioid Summit was held on September 28-29, 2023 at the Navajo Nation Museum. This event included presentation related to Narcan, trends, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) education and prevention

related to opioid use. The second day highlighted Navajo/Native American education regarding holistic wellness and treatment for drug use from a traditional spiritual perspective. This event increased collaborative partnerships with area health organization and resources.

GOALS

CHAP TAP Community Survey

DBMHS is working to complete the Community Health Aide Program Tribal Assessment and Planning (CHAP TAP) grant objective to implement the CHAP Community Survey to assess the feasibility of developing and implementing a CHAP for behavioral health aide and community health aide program within the communities on the Navajo Nation. This survey will be gathering input and feedback on healthcare needs on Navajo Nation, and interest in a community-based healthcare career. DBMHS will be sending the survey to the Navajo Nation Mass Email and NDOH employees. The implementation of the survey began on July 1, 2023 and is ongoing.

Goal Target Date: 2/28/24

DBMHS 988 Tribal Response

DBMHS 988 Tribal Response grant will work on the three (3) priorities: 1) Develop and implement a NN 988 tribal response readiness needs assessment and strategic plan, 2) Increase effective 988 response, access, and NN Crisis Center with local, state, and national crisis centers for prevention, treatment, and recovery support, and 3) Increase the capacity of DBMHS-NDOH to effectively sustain and establish data collection, and surveillance for mental, substance use and behavioral health crisis support.

Goal Target Date: 3/4/24

Navajo Nation Crisis Counseling Care (NNC3), DBMHS Database

DBMHS will work on the close out for the NNC3 project. The outstanding item under this project is to establish a crisis counseling care phoneline for the Navajo Nation. The focus of this grant was the response to COVID-19 and the need for mental health resources for members affected. DBMHS is exploring the 988 Tribal Response grant to pick up this crisis counseling care phoneline. The goal is to finalize the DBMHS Database and for all Sections to Go Live. Each section will input data into the database for finance, human resources, and asset control to establish and maintain accuracy and effective management of each section.

Goal Target Date: 01/31/24, 01/31/24

Navajo Health Education Program

PROJECTS

Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS)

Project Contact: Dec-23, psherrera@navajo-nsn.gov

The Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS) is a surveys for students' grades 6th through 12th that track behaviors such as behaviors that may lead to poor health. The NYRBS are administered every three years. The NYRBS applies census

sampling to ensure Navajo Nation schools with enrolled students are represented. The sampling frame includes schools from regular public, parochial, Bureau of Indian Education, Grant, and private schools. Survey eligibility includes border town schools with at least 50% or more Navajo student enrollment and schools at least ten students enrolled in grades 6th through 8th for middle schools, and 9th through 12th for high schools. The NYRBS is an ongoing source of high-quality data at the tribal level for monitoring health-related risky behaviors. The risky behaviors may contribute to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among Navajo youth and young adults. The data is an important tool for planning, implementing, and evaluating public health policies, programs, and practices for Navajo youth so that health risk behaviors for youth are monitored and youth are equipped with information to make informed decisions.

Expected Outcome: Attain 80% or more school participation in the survey; and secure 100% parental permission for student participation.

HIV Prevention Program

Project Contact: Philene Herrera, psherrera@navajo-nsn.gov

The Navajo Nation HIV Prevention Program (NHPP) has operated with three HIV health educators charged with providing prevention education, condom distribution, and HIV screening to an estimated population of 300,000 Navajo individuals residing within a land base of nearly 26,649 square miles, which approximately 8,900 square miles is covered per Health Educator. Presently, this is the only tribal program on Navajo Nation that conducts HIV screening using a High-Impact HIV prevention tool, provide education to clients, counseling, and referral services on all client reactive HIV test

results. In 2023, NHPP 9,418 Navajo individuals and families in HIV screening and education, while 23 were referrals to local Navajo medical centers; radio messages continue to be a critical means of communication where approximately 375,000 Navajo individuals and families were reached.

Injury and Violence Prevention

Project Contact: Philene Herrera, psherrera@navajo-nsn.gov

In 2020 accidents (unintentional injury) ranked as the fourth leading cause of death in the United States (US). Six percent of those fatal crashes were caused by distracted drivers, nine percent of those drivers were age 15 to 20 years old (UDOT, 2021). The Navajo specific 2017 Youth Behavior Risk Surveillance Survey (NYRBSS) identified twenty-nine percent of high school youth texted or emailed while driving a car in the past month. The rising numbers in youth driving increases this risky behavior among adolescents. These percentages are growing each year. The US average of adolescents texting and driving a car in the past month showed at thirty-nine percent increase (CDC, 2019). The impacts involved in distracted driving include crashes and/or death. With the increase in youth driving the rise in distracted driving increases (Merissa A. Yellman, Bryan. L, Erin K. Sauber. S, & Brener. N, 2020). Students who texted or emailed while driving are also at risk of other behaviors such as not wearing a seatbelt, likely to ride with someone who has been drinking alcohol and drinking while intoxicated (MMWR, 2020). Identifying these behavior risks is important to take into consideration as it can contribute to early death.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS)

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

Attained 80% or more school participation in the survey; and secured 100% parental permission for student participation. Administered to 50% Navajo students population, Navajo Nation middle and high schools including border towns.

Create awareness of youth risk behaviors

Program development

Focus teacher training and instructional programs

Support health-related legislation

Seek funding

Coordination and collaboration

HIV

HIV Prevention Program

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

In 2023, NHPP 9,418 Navajo individuals and families in HIV screening and education, while 23 were referrals to local Navajo medical centers; radio messages continue to be a critical means of communication where approximately 375,000 Navajo individuals and families were reached.

Injury and Violence Prevention

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

The Navajo specific 2017 Youth Behavior Risk Surveillance Survey (NYRBSS) identified twenty-nine percent of high school youth texted or emailed while driving a car in the past month. The rising numbers in youth driving increases this risky behavior among adolescents. Students who texted or emailed while driving are also at risk of other behaviors such as not wearing a seatbelt, likely to ride with someone who has been drinking alcohol and drinking while intoxicated (MMWR, 2020). Identifying these behavior risks is important to take into consideration as it can contribute to early death.

GOALS

Reduce unintentional and international injuries.

Each office will report 2 injury prevention (IP) sessions/quarter/office (2 IP/Qtr./Office x 4 Qtrs. x 13 Offices = 416. Program achieved 176/416 (42%). The Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey became a priority for FY 23 and into FY 24.

Goal Target Date: 100% = 416 Injury Prevention presentations per year.

Increase public health messages through text messaging service and social media.

Post 45 on-line and/or text messages on social media platforms each quarter (45 messages/quarter x 4 quarters/year = 180 messages/year). The Health Education Program posted 381 messages in FY 2023, a 211% increase from

the base requirement. Collaboration and coordination with the Health Messaging coalition promoted public health messages in FY 23.

Goal Target Date: 100% = 180 social media and/or text messages per year.

Reduce suicide attempts by adolescents and adults.

Each office will deliver 6 suicide prevention sessions/quarter (6 suicide prevention sessions per office/quarter x 4 quarters/year x 13 offices = 312 prevention sessions. the Health Education Program only met 6% of the Targeted Goal in FY 23. The Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey became a priority for FY 23 and into FY 24.

Goal Target Date: 100% = 312 prevention sessions/year for 13 offices.

Navajo Public Health Nursing Program

PROJECTS

Honoring Our Elders Celebration

Project Contact: Philana Brown, pkbrown@navajo-nsn.gov

November is Native American Heritage Month, Navajo Public Health Nursing Program and Navajo Department of Health Partners will be hosting the "Honoring Our Elders Celebration" event, to honor and acknowledge our Elderly.

NPHNP is involved with Public Health Promotion,

Prevention, Outreach and more, specific to the health needs of individuals, families, communities, and schools within the service unit area. Because Elder health is one of NPHN's highest priorities, we would like to show acknowledgement and appreciation to our Elderly by hosting a celebration event which includes games, live entertainment, traditional presenters, a Health Expo, and a Social gathering and dance. In addition, snacks and Lunch will be provided for all participants and attendees.

2023 Influenza Vaccination

Project Contact: Philana Brown, pkbrown@navajo-nsn.gov

Administer seasonal influenza vaccine for local schools and communities within the Kayenta Service Unit Area.

School Health Screening

Project Contact: Philana Brown, pkbrown@navajo-nsn.gov

School Health Screenings for BIE schools within the Kayenta Service Unit area. School health screenings are critical to identify health conditions at an early stage to ensure conditions and symptoms can be managed for a better quality of life. Vision and hearing problems can affect a child's performance and grades. It is critical to identify them at the earliest stage possible.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COVID 19

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

Continuation of COVID-19 contact tracing, case investigation and monitoring (for a minimum of 5 days). 214 COVID-19 cases completed/followed. Continue to assist COVID-19 patients with food, water, disinfecting/cleaning supplies, pulse oximeters and thermometers.

IT Equipment

Accomplishment Date: 9/15/23

Replaced 25 IT Equipment for 25 office/cubicles. NPHNP is located within the IHS Kayenta Health Center and upgrade is necessary due to the software utilized for patient care and also to be in compliance with KHC IT computer recommendations. We also have an off-site satellite remote clinic where we have office spaces available for NPHNP. . The items will be utilized for program administrative services, meetings, in-services, trainings, work-sessions, health fairs, presentations and community based events as community outreach education.

EHR Accessibility

Accomplishment Date: 9/29/23

Entire NPHNPs Sr. Community Health Workers gain EHR Access. EHRs provides better manage care for patients and provide better health care. EHR provides accurate, up-to-date, and complete information about the patient's health. Access will enable quick access to patient records for more efficient and coordinated care and improve productivity.

GOALS

Update NPHNP Policies and Procedures

Update 25% of the Program Internal Policies and Procedures by 12/2023

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

IHS Internal Standing Orders

25% Internal Standing Orders with IHS by 12/2023

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Maximize Outreach

Schedule more outreach; Target unreached communities; Maintain community high risk listing. Establish/attend conferences and meetings for networking/ marketing opportunities

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Navajo Community Health Representative/Outreach Program

PROJECTS

Navajo Birth Cohort Study

Project Contact: Qeturah R. Anderson, qranderson@navajo-nsn.gov

The National Institute of Health granted a 7-year extension (FY2023–FY2030) to the Navajo Birth Cohort Study/Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (NBCS/ECHO) Project. The ongoing partnership between Navajo Department of Health and University of New Mexico benefits the Navajo Nation through economic opportunities and expertise. Dr. Buu Nygren, the President of Navajo Nation, fully supports extending NBCS/ECHO for 7 more years. The study will provide important data for Navajo health care and policies to reduce risks for children.

National Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program

Project Contact: Shawnmarie Billiman, shawnmarie.billiman@navajo-nsn.gov

One major project that we recently launched with our Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) Project is our Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program (DPRP) that got approved on October 3rd by Ms. Kim Russell after the submission of our Proposal and Alternative Work Schedule request. We are now awaiting our approval from CDC as we submitted our DPRP Application on October 11, 2023. The program is set to kick off on November 6th, 2023, from 5:30pm–6:30pm at the Fort Defiance Chapter in Fort Defiance, AZ. The program is targeted primarily for prediabetic individuals to prevent Type 2 diabetes diagnosis. Participants will take part in one-hour weekly sessions for the first four to six months and then monthly for the second six months resulting in a 1-year long participation. Each participant will have the option to attend in-person, via Zoom, or distance learning.

Social Hygiene

Project Contact: Aaron Bull, aaronbull@navajo-nsn.gov

Social Hygiene, major accomplishments, is starting a collaboration with Navajo Epidemiology (NN EPI), whom have been awarded a 5-year grant approximately worth \$125,000 to be allocated for STI/ HIV. With this grant it was discussed to provide certifications, trainings, and to attend conferences for STI/ HIV prevention opportunities for the Social Hygiene team to expand their knowledge on STIs/ HIV. It is also mentioned to gather ideas on various incentives for outreach event for both community and health fairs. Equipment and apparel will be provided as well to assist Social Hygiene when conducting these outreach events. Each member of the Social Hygiene team is placing their ideas and opinions how to education and bring awareness to STI/ HIV on the Navajo Reservation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emergency Declaration

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

The Navajo Community Health Representative (CHR)/Outreach Program continues to respond to Emergency Declarations including the most recent Extreme Heat Declaration. CHRs across the Navajo Nation assisted their communities in getting water delivered to their communities who requested the need and to families who have no running water. Some chapters across the Navajo Nation have identified homes that will be receiving assistance in regard to getting their running water and air conditioning (ac) units as well.

Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Training

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

The GHWIC team successfully completed the Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification for Native Communities on September 26th & 27th, 2023 for ten (10) CHR staff including 4 CHRs, 4 CHWs, 1 CHR Supervisor, and 1 Sr. Program & Project Specialist. In our GHWIC Work Plan, we are to focus on Strategy 2: Tobacco Cessation in which we are to increasing training related to tobacco cessation for our CHR Service Units. Within the past two years, CHRs have participated in this BTIS training to enhance tobacco cessation efforts across Navajo Nation. As new CHRs onboard, the GHWIC continues to identify CHRs in need of this training. Successful completion of Instructor Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification for Native Communities for 1 Sr. Program & Projects Specialist under GHWIC. Will be a resource and a guidance/mentor when CHRs & CHWs implement Tobacco Intervention Skills in field work.

Navajo Birth Cohort Study Extension

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

The National Institute of Health granted a 7-year extension (FY2023-FY2030) to the Navajo Birth Cohort Study/Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (NBCS/ECHO) Project. The ongoing partnership between Navajo Department of Health and University of New Mexico benefits the Navajo Nation through economic opportunities and expertise. Dr. Buu Nygren, the President of Navajo Nation, fully supports extending NBCS/ECHO for 7 more years. The study will provide important data for

Navajo health care and policies to reduce risks for children.

GOALS

Permanent Dept. Manager II

For the past two years for the Navajo CHR Program, there has been no permanent Department Manager II. After advertisement for the position ended on September 22, 2023, we are hoping to have a permanent Department Manager II by next year January 2024 considering the lengthy background check applicants must go through for employment with the CHR Program.

Goal Target Date: Jan-24

MOU with COPE

The Navajo Community Health Representative (CHR)/Outreach Program is working towards updating the Memorandum of Understanding with Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment (COPE) which requires renewal since 2019. The Navajo CHR/Outreach Program did not renew the MOU since then, and today, we are working to renew it with our new Executive Director, Kim Russell. Some information that entails assistance from COPE include their assistance in job duties that will be devoted to supporting the scope of work of the CHR Program, including accompaniment of community health representatives on home visits, coordination with CHR staff, development and validation of educational curriculum, and technical assistance to the CHR supervisors on program data collection and review, the referral and management of high-risk patients with chronic conditions; provision of technical assistance to the CHRs to assure complete documentation of Patient Care Component, appropriate coding,

appropriateness of management; and elaboration of educational materials for use by community health representatives, and so forth.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

GHWIC Personnel and Project

The GHWIC Project's goal is to complete the CDC Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program in one year by November 2024, that includes 26 sessions, 12 grocery tours, 14 group fitness classes, and incentives to be given out at each milestone. The GHWIC Project is looking forward to having all three (3) staff fully onboard by the end of 2023. The Community Involvement Specialist is still awaiting background check completion and pending start date. Staff that are currently on board GHWIC are the Health Educator and the Sr. Program & Projects Specialist.

Goal Target Date: Nov-24

Food Distribution Program

PROJECTS

Procurement/Renovations

Project Contact: CLAUDEEN TALLWOOD,
ctallwood@navajo-nsn.gov

The Food Distribution Program would like to continue to pursue the procurement process in the renovations of our warehouses spread out across the Navajo Nation. We also need to purchase new computer equipment prepare for the transition for our commodity food inventory.

Hiring

Project Contact: CLAUDEEN TALLWOOD,
ctallwood@navajo-nsn.gov

The Food Distribution Program is currently in the process of submitting all vacancies within the program, & would like to be fully staffed by the end of this new fiscal year.

Non-CDL Trucks

Project Contact: CLAUDEEN TALLWOOD,
ctallwood@navajo-nsn.gov

FDP would like to procure (2) non-CDL trucks to conduct our tailgate services to our chapter houses for all our clients to receive their commodity food.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Certification/Training

Accomplishment Date: Jun-23

FDP had a couple hurdles to overcome before any type of procurement could begin. Our Senior Budget Analysts had passed away recently, this made it hard to complete our required budgeting on time. We currently filled this position and can now utilize our funds in a timely manner. All staff members received required training that was definitely needed.

Participation

Accomplishment Date: Ongoing 2023

The staff have diligently been working to increase clientele, and the results do show. Our Numbers

have increased from 7,300 in third quarter to now 7,500 participants. We expect these numbers to continue to frequently increase.

Preventive Maintenance

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

FDP purchased much needed parts for all our tractor trucks we utilize for transporting fuel & food for the program. Preventive maintenance will be schedule at all warehouses.

GOALS

Service HVAC Units

We will be requesting HVAC services to be conducted at all our warehouse locations to ensure adequate heating and ventilation for our staff and participates.

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Waste Disposal Service

Obtain a contract for waste Disposal service at 8 warehouse locations.

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Reestablish Tailgate services.

Number one priority is to reestablish the tailgate program at 6 warehouse locations. Fort Defiance, Mexican Springs, Crownpoint and Teech Nos Pos as priority one. Ensure qualified truck drivers individuals are hired at Kirtland, Leupp and Tuba City warehouse.

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Navajo WIC Nutrition Program

PROJECTS

2023 Vendor Section Enhancement and Mandated Investigations / Monitoring

Project Contact: Henry Haskie, hhaskie@navajo-nsn.gov

NWICNP started revising the Vendor Manual based on 7 CFR 246.12 in 2021. During FY2023, the proposed manual was reviewed, amended, and finalized in partnership with USDA (SWRO) and NDOJ. The finalized version reviewed by NWICNP was completed on October 6, 2023. Packet was submitted to USDA (SWRO) on October 10, 2023 and finalized on the same date. The vendor manual is a large volume of resources, therefore NWICNP will develop a handbook version from the manual. NWICNP will train NWIC staff and vendor projected to be completed by December 29, 2023. NWICNP is mandated by 7 CFR 246.12 to conduct covert investigations of 5% of authorized vendors. Further, conduct 5% or more vendor site monitoring to assist vendor with enhancing the shopping experience by the participants. NWICNP has 72 authorized vendors therefore will conduct a minimum of 4 investigations and 4 or more vendor site monitoring.

Policy Revisions

Project Contact: Veronica Clark, veronicaclark@navajo-nsn.gov

NWICNP is revising the program's policies and

organizing based on the 11 functional areas of the State Plan. The revised policies will be organized so that information will be easy to find and electronically available. Approximately 50% of the policies have been completed, reviewed, and approved by USDA (SWRO). Thirty-two (32) employees have been trained on the new standards and are currently in use. The volume are easy to use and time finding factual information is enhanced. The policy formats are standardized based on other WIC State Agencies. The formatted policies will be used to develop monitoring tools.

Website Development

Project Contact: Henry Haskie, hhaskie@navajo-nsn.gov

NWICNP form a website development team in the 1st Quarter of FY2023. The team have met to design the links, gather information for the use by the public, employees, vendors, and WIC program participants. Navigation of the web site is easy and is very user friendly. Navajo Department of Information Technology has been a partner in the development and providing guidance. Eventually, the webpage will contain pictures, forms, and if feasible communication with the general public. There will also be WIC app in which WIC program participants will be able to check their account balance, eligible food items, and have appointment reminders.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State Plan

Accomplishment Date: 15-Aug-23

Navajo WIC Nutrition Program (NWCINP)

developed, completed, and submitted to the USDA, Supplemental Support Nutrition Program, WIC Program at the Southwest Regional Office in Dallas, TX. NWICNP developed plans in significant areas. The State Plans consist of goals and objectives for the program, three budgeted (Nutrition Service Administration, Food, and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling) areas. Only significant changes in eleven WIC functions were submitted. Resource required for developing the State Plan are the administrative staff. For the FY2024 plan, some field supervisory staff were integrated to be part of the planning team. Section 164 No. 021296 was successfully completed.

Breastfeeding Recognition and Incentive

Accomplishment Date: 8-Aug-23

On August 8, 2023, Navajo WIC Nutrition Program (NWICNP) was given the 2023 WIC Breastfeeding Performance Awards. NWICNP's Breastfeeding program was among six Indian Tribal Organizations recognized. The Navajo Nation breastfeeding rate was approximately 21% of mom who breastfed their infant child one year and under. NWICNP have two employees providing breastfeeding counseling and nutrition education across the Navajo Nation. In addition to the recognition, the program received a \$10,000 bonus to be used to promote breastfeeding in the Navajo Nation service areas.

Vendor Compliance Investigations and Site Monitoring

Accomplishment Date: August 15 to 23, 2023

7 CFR 246.12 mandates the Navajo WIC Nutrition Program (NWICNP) to conduct covert

investigation and monitoring / technical assistance of 5% of authorized vendors for each component. NWICNP completed five covert investigations. The five vendors were deemed to be in full compliance with established standards in their agreement with the Navajo Nation. NWICNP also monitored five authorized vendors. Two of the five vendors were found not in compliance with daily updates of Approved Product Listing (APLs). The APLs are food which are authorized for purchase by the participants. The two vendors have been afforded further technical assistance from Custom Data Processing, Inc. to update their point of sales system for the APLs.

GOALS

Human Resources (Vacant Positions - Advertise, Interview, & Select)

PRIORTIY ONE: In the FY2024 budget, Navajo WIC Nutrition Program (NWICNP) will have 12 vacant positions. One position is budget at \$1 to hold the position until additional funds are identified. Three are new positions with one pending approval when FY2024 Business Unit are established. When BUs are set up, the 3 position will be advertised. Six positions are pending a revised PCQ to enhance the field of applicants. Two positions are will be advertised when BUs are set up.

Three staff will be reassigned to other worksite due to lack of work where they are currently assigned. This is for cost efficiency and effectiveness of the position to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the postions.

Goal Target Date: 28-Dec-23

Program Website

PRIORITY TWO: Navajo WIC Nutrition Program (NWICNP) will implement a program website. The website will disseminate information to the public on the program specifics, such as purpose, eligibilities, worksites, authorized store vendors, nutrition information, and program rules & regulations.

Website will have the capacity for program partners to access program documents, submit complaints. Staff will be able to submit monthly, quarterly, and annual reports in a secured manner.

The website will be expanded to meet the current program trends such as apps, submittals of applications by vendors and for program benefits.

Goal Target Date: 17-Nov-23

Compliance Buys and Monitoring of Authorized Vendors

PRIORITY THREE: Navajo WIC Nutrition Program (NWICNP) will initiate compliance buys and monitoring of 5% of authorized vendors. NWICNP will identify high risk vendors. The top five will be targeted for "compliance buys" and the next five will provide monitored with site visits and technical assistance to enhance services. The "compliance buys" are covert activities, however the monitoring are not covert activities.

Goal Target Date: 28-Dec-23

Office of Environmental Health and Protection Program

PROJECTS

NOEH Fund Management Plan

Project Contact: Nina Sloan, nsloan@navajo-nsn.gov

Project initiative to enable revenue collected from NOEH permit fees and fines to be deposited into NOEH General Fund and utilized for NOEH program operations.

Project would also give NOEH the authority to update the fees and fines, according to the requesting source and would be on scale between independent vendors, institutional and commercial establishments. At this time temporary vendors (flea market stands, roadside, etc) pay \$5 or \$10 for a Pink Card, NOEH wishes to update those prices accordingly. At this time Commercial (restaurants, gas stations, etc.,) and Institutions (Head Starts, Senior Centers etc., food services) pay \$10 NOEH wishes to update this price as well. Revenue for this would pay for not only operational costs but training to rebuild NOEH as 1 of 2 Regulatory Authorities by allowing NOEH to hire the workforce needed in all chapters to serve as Navajo Nation Food Code enforcement and collaboration with IHS to monitor and inspect Navajo Nation facilities, businesses, and food service vendors. This would also pay for training for all areas along the Environmental spectrum such as mold, mouse infestation (team to educate and aide in determining Hantavirus potential) carnival ride inspection, etc for

Sanitarians, and training for administrative staff to serve as HR, payroll, etc. With more funding NOEH will have the ability to be the Regulatory Authority for the NN in other instances for other programs as well. This would also assist NOEH to have a central data base where we can share files and information of all facility establishments all over the Navajo Nation to track compliance.

NOEH Central Database

Project Contact: Michelle Silver-Bighorse/ Patric Soce, mksilverbighorse@navajo-nsn.gov

A database for tracking facilities would be helpful in providing our office with quick referencing of food service, comprehensive, pre-operational, and routine surveys from IHS. Also providing tracking ability of Itinerant Food Service cards where we are notified of their expiration date. A centralized database housed in the NOEH office would better suit our ability to quickly track these facilities faster and efficiently rather than using a spreadsheet. It will help us to search the facility quickly using their IHS Establishment Numbers (FSS# and Permit #) which are registered with the facility with their unique number.

Currently, requesting IHS to send our office reports is sometimes delayed and becomes a slow process. This also slows the sanitation permit request process because there is no database to track IHS' surveys and to determine whether the facility is in compliance with our Food Service Code and Regulations.

NOEH Training

Project Contact: Nina Sloan, nsloan@navajo-nsn.gov

This initiative for NOEH would be for staff to

attend training and education to empower our program to operate at its full potential.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Staffing

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

NOEH experienced many staffing changes from 4 employees to one, and was able to hire two Sanitarians with exceptional backgrounds and education to rebuild the program. With the new workforce NOEH was able to serve as NN Food Code Enforcement at all Fairs and celebrations including collaborating with IHS to do so. NOEH successfully completed all requests up to date for Temporary Itinerant Cards (Pink Card) and Navajo Food service cards (Blue Card). NOEH will continue to satisfy the program mission of providing exceptional customer service and compliance.

Celebration Compliance

Accomplishment Date: Yearly

NOEH successfully participated as the regulatory authority for food safety and compliance taking leadership and serving as enforcement while collaborating with IHS serving as the recommending source for compliance.

Sanitation Issuance

Accomplishment Date: Nov-23

NOEH is continuing to issue permits and work closely with IHS to issue permits for food services across the Navajo Nation.

GOALS

Request more funding for program

To hire a Program Manager I, and two more Sanitarians for Shiprock and Tuba City Service units to track compliance and prevent incidences that adversely affect the Navajo People.

Goal Target Date: FY 2024

Inspections

Inspect commercial establishments and track compliance and prevent incidences that adversely affect the Navajo People. This goal would focus on inspecting Commercial establishments, so that the public is safe from food borne illnesses or any environmental issues that adversely affect them.

Goal Target Date: Nov-24

Public Service- Food handler training classes, and request follow up

This goal will focus on the public- we will conduct in person food handler training, catering to the elderly and those in remote areas that cannot get to a computer to take the online Food Handler training. This would also take our services to the people in remote areas for Pink and Blue card issuance.

This goal also would focus on following up in person on complaints, and handling all instances and pointing the public in the right direction if it is out NOEH spectrum.

Goal Target Date: Yearly

Division of Human Resources

Department of Personnel Management

PROJECTS

Fiscal Year 2024 DPM Budget Initiative

Project Contact: Tomicita Woodie, Tomicita.
Woodie@dpm.navajo-nsn.gov

DPM aimed to enhance its operations by focusing on key areas. We recommended increasing the number of personnel and allocating a budget for recruitment purposes and sought funds to address challenges in filling certain positions with the need to fund bonuses, merit pay and funding hard to fill positions.

HRMS - Streamline Processes

Project Contact: Tomicita Woodie, Tomicita.
Woodie@dpm.navajo-nsn.gov

DPM has actively advocated for the streamline of processes. We are committed to this endeavor until a new HRMS is authorized, which will enable DPM to work smarter and more efficiently. Our goals are to enhance productivity and effectiveness with the department. We aim to improve overall operations.

Navajo Nation Personnel Policy and Procedures Revisions, Comprehensive Compensation and Classification Study by REDW

Project Contact: Tomicita Woodie, Tomicita Woodie, Tomicita.Woodie@dpm.navajo-nsn.gov, Tomicita.Woodie@dpm.navajo-nsn.gov

Continuing our efforts in actively engaged in revising the NNPPM. We are diligently making necessary edits and revisions to ensure that the manual aligns with current best practices and meets the evolving needs of the Navajo Nation. This study is crucial in ensuring that our compensation structure is aligned with similar organizations in the surrounding area. We aim to gather valuable data and insight that will enable us to make informed decisions regarding employee compensation. Our goal is to establish fair and competitive compensation practices that attract and retain top talent within the organization.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Create a Budget for Hard-to-Fill positions, Bonuses, Merit Pay, & Other Bonuses

Accomplishment Date: 11/10/23

DPM successfully obtained funds to address the challenges associated with filling hard-to-fill positions, ensuring that critical roles are adequately staffed. Secured funds to provide bonuses and merit pay, recognizing and rewarding exceptional performance with the organization.

Navajo Nation Personnel Policy Manual Revision

Accomplishment Date: 12/30/23

DPM along with other programs made significant progress in revising NNPPM, ensuring that it reflects current practices and meets the evolving needs of the Navajo Nation.

Recruitment Funds

Accomplishment Date: 11/10/23

Efforts were made to secure a budget specifically designated for recruitment purposes, enabling departments to effectively attract and hire qualified candidates.

GOALS

Streamline Recruitment Process for Departments

To help address the ongoing concerns and streamline the hiring process, DPM will work with Assessing the Department Needs, Collaborate the Approach with open communication. Develop a comprehensive talent acquisition strategy; Provide training and development opportunities for programs. Explore partnerships with professional, industry associations, and other entities to expand the candidate pool. Allocate additional resources and support to departments struggling with hiring challenges. Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented strategies and gather feedback from departments.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Implement the revised NNPPM

Incorporate the newly revised policy and procedures manual for the Navajo Nation with proceeding steps to implement with training. Develop a comprehensive communication plan to inform all employees about the revised manual. Conduct training sessions or workshops to familiarize employees. Ensure the manual is easily accessible to all employees. Establish a process for regular review and updates of the NNPPM. Ensure that it reflects the insights and perspectives of stakeholders and meets the legal and operational requirements of the Navajo Nation.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Implement a new Human Capital Management System

Strategically work with programs, departments, and divisions within the Navajo Nation to help with the project implementation of a new Human Capital Management system. This system will help the DPM by using a dedicated management team responsible for overseeing the implementation process. Define project goals, timelines, and deliverables. We aim to automate and streamline our DPM processes.

Goal Target Date: 9/30/24

Navajo Staff Development and Training Program

PROJECTS

Plan of Operation Amendment

Project Contact: Char Kruger, charkruger@navajo-nsn.gov

Staff Development and Training Department will diligently will be working on amending our Plan of Operation - HEHSCMY -013-12 with the involvement of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and our oversight, Health, Education and Human Services Committee for sponsorship and approving. Currently, this initiative is in progress.

Fund Management Plan Amendment

Project Contact: Char Kruger, charkruger@navajo-nsn.gov

Staff Development and Training Department will diligently will be working on amending our Fund Management Plan - BFAP-07-04 with the involvement of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Navajo Nation Budget Finance Committee and our oversight, the Navajo Nation Health, Education and Human Services Committee for sponsorship and approving. Currently, this initiative is in progress.

Healing & Wellness conference

Project Contact: Vera Hyatt, vera.hyatt@navajo-nsn.gov

Staff Development and Training Department is in the planning stages of implementing a Healing & Wellness conference. Mrs. Vera Hyatt, Training Instructor will be deemed as project manager and the point of contact with the assistance of Staff Development and Training Department staff. Goals and Objectives is to promote spiritual, emotional, physical and mental health of our Navajo Nation employees and will also be open to other organizations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Training and Education

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

Ya'iishjáástsoh (Planting of Late Crops) – July, Bini'ant'áátsózi (Ripening of Early Crops) – August, Bini'ant'áátsóh (Ripening of Late Crops) – September - 4th Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2023, Staff Development and Training Department continued to be creative in growth, ideas and success. Providing exceptional trainings to Navajo Nation Employees, Navajo Nation Chapters, outside organizations, schools and higher education in technology, progressive, CPR, AED and First Aid, which includes curriculum development, marketing and networking. In addition to training, Staff Development also provides the Navajo Nation Employment Multi-Services Orientation and the mandated Sexual Harassment Awareness Training on a monthly basis. Furthermore, Staff Development and Training Department also has been incorporating themed info-sessions, which requires coordinating with presenters and/or departments; very much appreciated by attendees and usually perceived as a positive addition.

34th Anniversary Celebration

Accomplishment Date: 28-Sep-23

At Staff Development and Training Department we were pleased to announce the inception of Staff Development of Training Department 34 years ago. This day allowed us to provide refreshments, network and hand out promotional items to our customers. The customers, employees and visitors that were in attendance were given the opportunity to give feedback on our services, our trainings and gave insight on what other training topics that they would like to see on our schedule. Also, it allowed as a marketing strategy for Staff Development and Training Department, it was a successful endeavor.

Leadership and Community Support, Professional Development and Wellness, Day To Day Work Performance

Accomplishment Date: September 30, 2023, September 30, 2023, September 30, 2023

Taking initiatives and lending hand where it is needed; to name a few, the Division of Human Resource Strategic planning meeting with Division Human Resources Division Director, Administrative staff, all program managers and facilitator Mr. Arvin Trujillo. Attended the Eastern Navajo Nation Fair parade and provided promotional items to hand out to attendees. Assist in the planning and participation of the Navajo Nation Chapter Training and Education held in Flagstaff, Arizona. On behalf of Staff Development and Training Department, attended Eastern Navajo Agency Council meeting in White Rock, New Mexico. Other duties assigned as such, interview panel, delegation duties for another program and provide input when

needed.,Professional development for all Staff Development and Training Department staff for confidence, to institute knowledge, stay abreast with current trends and engage to succeed. As career growth is important, so is the wellness of all staff at Staff Development and Training Department; therefore, in conjunction with our Strategic planning meeting, Wellness and Mentoring is incorporated. This is a re-set of positive energy, mind, spirit and inspire our staff through team mentoring.,Staff Development and Training Development continues provides excellent customer service to our customers by phone, emails and in-person. Update website on a weekly basis, if needed; and keeping abreast on the progress of our daily office duties, expenditures, implementation of goals and objectives. Successfully, closed out the Fiscal Year 2023 and transition to the preparation of FY 2024, which means to plan for the 1st quarter (October, November and December 2023).

GOALS

Healing and Wellness conference

Within this FY 2024 Quarter 1, goal in this first of three phases are to identified common logistics; such as date(s), location, audience and budget details. Office of the President and Vice President could assist with advocating on behalf of Staff Development and Training Department for the American Rescue Plan Act to help fund this very important endeavor. It would be such a great collaboration.

Goal Target Date: 30-Jun-24

Training and Education

Staff Development and Training Department would like to empower our Navajo Nation

employees, our people and our community to be independent and self reliant. Entertaining areas of workplace culture, increase productivity, job satisfaction and educational upgrades in higher education. How do we do this? create and develop curriculum with new skills and goal settings.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Grant Writing Initiative

Staff Development and Training Department is a revenue generating program, which means we have to hustle and market our program at it's highest level to bring in customers to take their trainings with our department. Challenge ourselves to a different venue to obtaining funds to assist our department with our goals and objectives. Does not hurt to try at least one for quarter one.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Department of Retirement Services

PROJECTS

Department of Retirement Services

Project Contact: Andrea Holmes, andrea Holmes@navajo-nns.gov

1. Customer Service: To provide work session, strategic planning, team building and ensure cultural teaching and kinship are encouraged.

2. Training: Allow training to Retirement

Services Team to advance learn new techniques to complete their daily task.

3. Education: To provide education to Retirement Services Team to comply and excel in all the retirement plans.

4. Contracts: Adhere to contract for Principal Financial Group and USI are in place.

5. Technology: Ensure Retirement Services has all compatible technology to function daily.

Defined Benefit Projects

Project Contact: Andrea Holmes, andrea.holmes@navajo-nsn.gov

1. Update all data census for the annual Valuation by December 2023.

2. PBI Search for retiree, beneficiaries, who have a retirement benefit.

3. Lump Sum for retirees who receive a small pension and are of elderly age.

Defined Contribution Projects

Project Contact: Andrea Holmes, andrea.holmes@navajo-nsn.gov

1. Navajo Nation Payroll files updates: We are working with Financial Management Information System/Human Resources Information System

2. Secure 2.0 compliance with the 401(k) plan

3. Continue with Education and communication with new enrollments and participants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Department of Retirement Services - Administration

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

1. Filled Office Specialist, hire two Temporary workers and one worker with Navajo Nation Workforce Development.

2. Submitted four budgets for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Department of Retirement Services administration, committee and investment to the trust

3. Completed all administrative documents for the Fiscal Year 2024.

4. We celebrated our 50th Year Anniversary on July 28, 2023, and served over 300 people, sandwiches, chips, cake, ice cream, and cold beverages.

5. Entered the 75th Navajo Nation Fair Parade in Window Rock, Az to celebrate our milestone of 50 Years with retirement benefits to the Navajo Nation employees and participating affiliates.

6. Retirement Services has extended Principal Financial Group and USI contract for one year to manage the 401(k) Savings Plan and the Deferred Compensation Plan.

7. Retirement Services participated in the training and communication for the Local Governance Act Certified Chapters to become participating affiliates in the retirement plans.

Retirement Services Sections

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

1. In the Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution section, we work are working with the Local Governance Act - Certified Chapters to become participating affiliates to the Navajo Nation. They are willing to contribute, but it is a process to get the Certified Chapters on board to contribute into the Defined Benefit Plan and/or the 401(k) Savings Plan for retirement savings.
2. In the Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution section, we conduct monthly Navajo Nation Employee Multi-Service Orientation.
3. In the Defined Benefit, we complete an average of 20 Retirement Kits per month. We also complete Continuous Services Record for terminated vested and active employees, who are interested in retiring.
4. For the Defined Contribution Section, we continue to encourage employees to increase their deferral rate and educate.

Retirement Plan Administration Committee

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

1. Accepting the Asset Allocation change from the Navajo Nation Investment Committee.
2. Approving Local Governance Act Certified Chapters to become participating affiliates to participate into the Defined Benefit Plan and/or 401(k) Savings Plan.
3. After introducing the increase on the "Normal

Retirement Age", the committee is in discussion on the cost effectiveness.

4. The Retirement Plan Administration Committee approved the Cost-of-Living Resolution for retirees.

GOALS

Retirement Services - Administration

Complete all Fiscal Year 2024 administrative documents with signatures. Make sure all accounts receivables are process with accounts payable. Work with Department of Personnel Management to fill two vacant positions. Comply with assignments given by division. Work with Retirement Plan Administration Committee with resolution and legislation to implement new initiative on the retirement age and possible cost of living adjustment to improve the future projections and benefit. Assist Retirement Services Team to complete tasks, assigned.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Defined Benefit

Currently, we will be working on collecting, comparing and correcting all Continuous Services Records for all vested and terminated vested employee with the Navajo Nation Government, Navajo Agricultural Product Industry and Navajo Forestry Products Industry. This updating of census data will be reported to the committee in December 2023 for the annual valuation. The Defined Benefit section work daily to update continuous services records for employees, who are ready to retire. Then, we focus

on employees, who are wanting an estimate for future projection.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Defined Contribution

In the 401(k) Section, we are consistently working with enrollments into the plan, changes in deferral rates and assisting clients or employees with questions. They ask about their portfolio and loan eligibility. We implemented by every fiscal year, October 1st, to do an auto escalate of one percent, up to 6 percent to take advantage of the match. We work with the Navajo Nation Payroll and Principal Financial Group bi-weekly to make sure all contributions are received and posted to the participant's account. We also work with the consultant to implement a 401(k) limits per calendar year.

Goal Target Date: 12/31/23

Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Enrollment of Tribal Members

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification enrolled about 1,065 tribal members during the three-month period in the months of July, August, and September, 2023. Enrollment requests normally are 250 requests per quarter however due to the Hardship Program

for Covid relief, there has been an enormous amount of people desiring to enroll with the Navajo Nation.

Although the Hardship application closed on June 30, 2023, there were several hundred outstanding enrollment requests received by the Vital Records office that were still in need of processing.

Compile and maintain tribal membership rolls

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification received many enrollment requests due to the Hardship program that recently ended on June 30, 2023 and the subsequent receipt of supporting documents resulted in approximately 5,985 records being updated within the enrollment database.

The enrollment database was transferred to the servers at the Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology, and is currently housed there. Despite transition issues, the database is more stable and accessible however more licenses are needed in order for all staff to access the database for research and recording purposes.

Verification of Navajo Nation tribal membership

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

Navajo Nation members are eligible for certain benefits or entitlements only available to Native Americans such as medical services through the Indian Health Services however tribal membership needs to be verified by Vital Records.

Normally there are one hundred verification

or research requests received by Vital Records however with the increased number of tribal members, the average number of requests has doubled.

GOALS

Enrollment of Tribal Members

As a Public Law 93-638 program under the Indian Self-Determination Act, the Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification follows its Scope of Work as found within its 638 contract to provide this service.

Tribal enrollment is one of several priorities of the scope of work and the expected outcome is to provide enrollment services throughout the Navajo Nation including the satellite communities of Ramah, Tohajiilee, and Alamo. This is done through in-person visits by clients or mailed in requests for those living off the Navajo Nation.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Compile and maintain tribal membership rolls

As a Public Law 93-638 program under the Indian Self-Determination Act, the Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification follows its Scope of Work as found within its 638 contract to provide this service.

Individual record updates from Navajo Nation tribal members in order to have the most recent information available as to their legal name, marital status, and birth and death records. This information is important in order to determine

an enrollment count of Navajo Nation tribal members.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Verification of Navajo Nation tribal membership

As a Public Law 93-638 program under the Indian Self-Determination Act, the Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification follows its Scope of Work as found within its 638 contract to provide this service.

Many Navajo Nation tribal members are eligible for benefits as Native peoples but have to verify their tribal membership. This is done by the provision of a Certificate of Indian Blood as prepared by the Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification, an Indian Preference Form (BIA Form 4432), or by other means as a verification memorandum.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PROJECTS

Keyah Construction

Project Contact: Harry Singer, batesrich@hotmail.com

The Office Building were built without ADA push bottoms to the Elevators and the front Entrances of the (2) buildings.

Discussing for the Architects and Engineers,

The NNOSHA and Navajo Nation Department of Justice provides legal services to the three governmental branches of the Navajo Nation Government, including its chapters and entities, in matters in which the Navajo Nation government has an interest. The Attorney General also initiates and defends all litigation against the Navajo Nation and supervises all outside attorney contractors who assist the Nation with various cases 1.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is largely inapplicable to Tribal Nations due to tribal sovereignty. Under Title I, Tribal governments are specifically excluded as an employer. However, private employers operating within reservations are not excluded as employers. Additionally, employment and Indian law experts generally agree that Title II is not applicable. Finally, Title III is applicable, but private individuals may not bring suit against Tribal Nations unless the Tribe has expressly waived their sovereign immunity 2.

I hope this information helps.

Awareness Trainings

Project Contact: Richardard Bates or Calvin TohannieTohannie, rhbates@navajo-nsn.gov

Education/Training

- July/August/September 2023
- Awareness Training
- 1926 Construction 10-30 hr
- 1910 General Industry 10-30hr
- First aid /CPR trainings

The Navajo Nation has promulgated national standards used in the following operations:

- 1. General Industry Regulations (29 CFR Part 1910)
- 2. Construction Industry Regulations (29 CFR 1926)
- 3. Agriculture Industry Regulations (29 CFR 1928)
- 4. Maritime (29 CFR 1915,1917, 1918)

Education –NNOSHA's goals are to provide preventive education to employers and employees to prevent any work related accidents.

Our program provides safety education in the workplace such as:

- General Industry safety,
- Construction safety
- Agricultural Safety
- Maritime safety.

Our administration provides safety awareness training during new employee orientation, work sites and conferences upon request to our office.

NOSHA GOALS

Project Contact: NOSHA Important Goals, batesrich@hotmail.com

NOSHA Important Goals

- 1. Identified Strategic trust areas
- 2. Align goals with strategic & prioritize
- 3. allocate funds with aligned Action Plan
- 4. Establish achievement timeframe & schedule.
- 5. Montor, Report & Control efforts

- 6. Goal: Achievement & Close-out year end

1402. Purpose

A. The Navajo Nation hereby asserts its inherent sovereign authority of self-government to promulgate, prescribe and enforce this Navajo Nation Occupational Safety and Health Act and its regulations and standards to assure every working person safe and healthful working conditions by providing for...

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE-ELECTED AND APPOINTED.

Accomplishment Date: July/August/September 2023

Safety Advisory Committee

RE-CERTIFIED OSHA TRAINER

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

the course is designed for you NNOSHA program who have completed the OSHA 500 Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry and who are active trainers in the outreach program. It provides an update on such topics as OSHA construction standards, policies, and regulations. To stay current on relevant OSHA matters, Outreach trainers are required to attend this trainer update course every 4 years. The OSHA 500 Trainer Course may also be retaken by NNOSHA and to maintain a trainer's authorized status. If a NNOSHA trainer's authorization has expired, they

will be unable to conduct Outreach training and receive student course completion cards.

The accomplishment is to in order to register for this course, NNOSHA must download and complete the Outreach Trainers update form and send your current outreach trainer card to oshaed@asu.edu. Once we have verified that the NNOSHA prerequisites have been met, we will send you a registration code that will allow you to proceed with the on-line registration process. Thank you, ASU Osha Office, for your understanding.

Building Re-openings

Accomplishment Date: July/August/September

Navajo Nation Head Start Buildings 87 building inspection and assessments, safety plans are Accomplished.

Navajo Nation Judicial Branch re-opening COPP safety plan were established. and reopening were at 75% building reopen.

Identifying potential problems or compliance issues based on local, state and federal or Navajo NATION codes, ADA and ordinances.

Giving recommendations and approvals for repairs and alterations

Reviewing the plans of new constructions and providing feedback to the Navajo Nation Facility Maintenance

Visiting construction sites to check elements such as proper drainage, elevation and building location.

Monitoring construction work and carrying out structural inspections at every building phase

Issuing occupancy certifications after being satisfied with the quality of workmanship and the soundness of repairs or construction.

GOALS

NNOSHA ACT 2000

NNOSHA Act of 2000 amendments, FRS No. 16-2555: Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Act of 2000 Reviews at DOJ for recommendation NOSHA document and to make changes to the Act of 2000 and recommended to redraft the Act and which has now been developed and available.

§ 1402. Purpose

A. The Navajo Nation hereby asserts its inherent sovereign authority of self-government to promulgate, prescribe and enforce this Navajo Nation Occupational Safety and Health Act and its regulations and standards to assure every working person safe and healthful working conditions by providing for:

Goal Target Date: Fiscal year 2024

PLAN OF OPERATION

FRS No. 16-2153 NOSHA Plan of Operation

DOJ review recommends the NOSHA Act to be presented through the oversight committee, the council and passed before further review of the Plan of Operation and implicates multiple inconsistencies in the plan.

Implement Navajo Nation Occupational Safety and Health Administration Program and execute associated duties and responsibilities that shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1. Develop an occupational safety and health education and training program to acquaint employers and employees with the NNOSHA Act.
- 2. Coordinate a comprehensive accident prevention and occupational Safety and health control.
- 3. Institute legal proceedings and enforcement to compel compliance within the NNOSHA Act.

Goal Target Date: Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Establish Partnership

Working with others: introduction meeting with the Associated Contractors of New Mexico and Arizona to open communication and received numerous documents on disk of developing a safety and health programs. also, with other on the Navajo nation workforce department and staff development training center, Outreach Trainings.

OSHA Cards to all employees, or trainers

When it comes to starting a partnership, you have to choose your partner(s) wisely. After all, you're going to be working with them closely.

Take your time when choosing your partner or partners. While searching for a partner, look at things like:

Skills and strengths

Knowledge

Credibility

You'll likely also want to pick a partner who is financially stable, shares the same vision as you, and can offer resources for the partnership (e.g., industry connections).

Don't rush into a decision when selecting your partner. Ask yourself questions like, what do they bring to the table? Will we get along? Do we share the same values? The longer you ponder on these questions, the better.

Goal Target Date: Fiscal year 2023/2024

Office of Background Investigations

PROJECTS

Expedite background check processes efficiently and expeditiously, to promote the hiring process.

Project Contact: Nicketa K. Kirk, Program Manager I, nk.kirk@navajo-nsn.gov

The OBI Program entered the 4th Quarter, July 1, 2023-September 30, 2023, with the transparency goal in place from prior quarter, which is to expedite background check processes efficiently and expeditiously, to promote the hiring process.

Pursuant to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC), Resolution No. HEHSCAP-04-23; An Action relating to HEHSC; Amending the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies

Manual Section IV.K.5; Approving the Navajo Nation to hire employees on a provisional basis while background checks are pending.

The OBI continues to advocate the implementation of streamlining the hiring initiatives by monitoring and tracking the provisional hire conditional employment from criteria 2-9, and sensitive positions from criteria 1. See caseloads summary below.

Provisional Hiring & Sensitive Positions

Caseloads Summary

- April 0
- May 1
- June 8
- July 22
- August 44
- September 34
- October 7
- Total 116

The background check types are from provisional hire, sensitive positions, renewals, transfers, promotions, demotions, temporary employment, violations of acknowledgement of understanding and other. The process, although did not require a trial basis, experienced many delays surrounding non-submission of various documents, reports, payments, and timeline not being met, further caused confusion, and for some, entered disciplinary phases.

TRAINING THE EMPLOYEES & SUPERVISORS

Project Contact: Nicketa K. Kirk, Program Manager I, nk.kirk@navajo-nsn.gov

The new amendments of the Navajo Nation Personnel Policy manual escalated a broad look at training of existing/new employees and supervisors, seeking strategic planning to implement the new procedures at departments and programs levels. In addition, this amended process identified measures of consistency in customer service, communication, employee performance, position reclassification, additional funding for step increase, more staffing, more subject area training, etc.

Due to the high need for training, the OBI in coordination, with the Navajo Department of Personnel Management (DPM) collectively engage with other departments to provide orientation during the Navajo Staff Development & Training (SDT), New Employee Multi-services Orientation (NEMSO) monthly to promote the procedures and processes.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH

Project Contact: Nicketa K. Kirk, Program Manager I, nk.kirk@navajo-nsn.gov

The OBI is an independent background check service for the Navajo Nation employees; thus, OBI requires the expertise of the Navajo Nation Police Department/Information Management Section (NNDPS/IMS) to produce the Tribal Criminal History reports (aka Criminal Traffic History report "CTHR") which is included in the OBI Security packet process. The communication efforts have improved with the NNDPS/IMS by conducting monthly meetings and sharing weekly reports to ensure the Navajo Nation employees background check processes are monitored toward completion. The DHR, OBI and NNDPS/IMS participated in a KTNN Radio forum with KGAK to provide outreach to the Navajo Nation people of the new Navajo Nation Personnel

Policy manual amendments and how each department are working together to expedite the services. The impact of the forum were the ending questions, answers and discussion which served as an icebreaker to begin the work.

The NNDPS/IMS has a long-standing collaborative partnership with OBI. Hence in recent meetings, the NNDPS/IMS and OBI are working toward a more effective consolidation. The OBI will soon have access to the criminal databases to produce the CTHR reports for the Navajo Nation employees under the strict access control of NNDPS/IMS. NNDPS Training Coordinators will provide the training and technical assistance and other services needed for OBI to launch the beginning phases of OBI's vision of one-stop shop. The timeline for this consolidation will be end of next quarter, December 2023.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Expedite background check processes efficiently and expeditiously, to promote the hiring process.

Accomplishment Date: On Going

Pursuant to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC), Resolution No. HEHSCAP-04-23; An Action relating to HEHSC; Amending the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual Section IV.K.5; Approving the Navajo Nation to hire employees on a provisional basis while background checks are pending.

Accomplishments

The OBI continues to advocate the implementation of streamlining the hiring

initiatives by monitoring and tracking the provisional hire conditional employment from criteria 2-9, and sensitive positions from criteria 1. See caseloads summary below.

Provisional Hiring & Sensitive Positions

Caseloads Summary

- April 0
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The background check types are from provisional hire, sensitive positions, renewals, transfers, promotions, demotions, temporary employment, violations of acknowledgement of understanding and other. The process, although did not require a trial basis, experienced many delays surrounding non-submission of various documents, reports, payments, and timeline not being met, further caused confusion, and for some, entered disciplinary phases.

Accomplishment notes: The caseloads are increasing on a weekly basis. The OBI is actively progressing with various types of background checks.

TRAINING THE EMPLOYEES & SUPERVISORS

Accomplishment Date: Monthly basis

The new amendments of the Navajo Nation Personnel Policy manual escalated a broad

look at training of existing/new employees and supervisors, seeking strategic planning to implement the new procedures at departments and programs levels. In addition, this amended process identified measures of consistency in customer service, communication, employee performance, position reclassification, additional funding for step increase, more staffing, more subject area training, etc.

Due to the high need for training, the OBI in coordination, with the Navajo Department of Personnel Management (DPM) collectively engage with other departments to provide orientation during the Navajo Staff Development & Training (SDT), New Employee Multi-services Orientation (NEMSO) monthly to promote the procedures and processes.

Accomplishment Notes: The OBI is actively communicating with the Navajo Nation employees and supervisors with Referrals, Provisional hire forms, intake appointments, etc. on daily basis. OBI also provided a written notification of reminders to the Supervisors and Manager to provide guidance to the new hire employees initiating the hiring process within 5-days to avoid failure of provisional hire and discipline.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH

Accomplishment Date: 31-Dec-23

The OBI is an independent background check service for the Navajo Nation employees; thus, OBI requires the expertise of the Navajo Nation Police Department/Information Management Section (NNDPS/IMS) to produce the Tribal Criminal History reports (aka Criminal Traffic History report "CTHR") which is included in the OBI Security packet process. The communication

efforts have improved with the NNDPS/IMS by conducting monthly meetings and sharing weekly reports to ensure the Navajo Nation employees background check processes are monitored toward completion. The DHR, OBI and NNDPS/IMS participated in a KTNN Radio forum with KGAK to provide outreach to the Navajo Nation people of the new Navajo Nation Personnel Policy manual amendments and how each department are working together to expedite the services. The impact of the forum were the ending questions, answers and discussion which served as an icebreaker to begin the work.

GOALS

The NNDPS/IMS has a long-standing collaborative partnership with OBI. Hence in recent meetings, the NNDPS/IMS and OBI are working toward a more effective consolidation. The OBI will soon have access to the criminal databases to produce the CTHR reports for the Navajo Nation employees under the strict access control of NNDPS/IMS. NNDPS Training Coordinators will provide the training and technical assistance and other services needed for OBI to launch the beginning phases of OBI's vision of one-stop shop. The timeline for this consolidation will be end of next quarter, December 2023.

ACCOMPLISHMENT NOTES: The OBI initiated the communication with NNDPS/IMS to discuss existing processes and database expectations and new technology that may assist with channers, reports, and effective communication. The OBI has also met with the NNDPS Headquarters and training faculty who is organizing the training curriculum. The OBI is looking forward to newfound working relationship with the NNDPS/IMS and headquarters.

GOALS

Expedite background check processes efficiently and expeditiously, to promote the hiring process.

The OBI goal is to obtain a better tracking and monitoring system for all background check caseloads. The current database FileMaker is limited; however, we are requesting for an upgrade and orientation to review the features, storing, file sharing, reporting features, security, etc.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

TRAINING THE EMPLOYEES & SUPERVISORS

The current training mechanism is live power point presentation on a monthly basis. However, in order for the training and learning to work is if the employees and supervisors actively participate in the process, paying close attention to the timeline, make use of forms available on website, returning documents in timely manner for processing.

The OBI will continue to provide services to the Navajo Nation employees and supervisors in collaboration with other Staff Development and Training and Department of Personnel Management.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH

The current collaborative partnership with the NNDPS/IMS and OBI in streamlining the CTHR reporting timeline is a priority. However, currently the waiting period is 4-6 weeks, this is due to NNDPS/IMS is also taking care of other entities, Police officers, students, etc. that are not focused on employment only.

The OBI is looking forward to NNDPS/IMS transitioning the CTHR responsibilities to OBI.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Office of Navajo Labor Relations

PROJECTS

Investigating Unfair Labor Complaints

Project Contact: RON CURTIS, rmcurtis@navajonnsn.gov

ONLR Labor Compliance Officers (LCO's) will conduct employment investigations of unfair labor practices filed by members of the general public against their employer. The Navajo Preference in Employment Act guarantees each citizen is protected from unfair labor practices. LCO's will be available to travel to communities to process written labor complaints.

Monitor Construction/Employment Worksites

Project Contact: RON CURTIS, rmcurtis@navajonnsn.gov

The ONLR Construction Employment Analyst will perform job site inspections to enforce the NPEA and prevent non-discrimination in hiring qualified Navajos. ONLR will make unannounced inspections of worksites throughout the Navajo Nation on a quarterly basis. 25 worksites will be inspected each quarter.

Navajo Preference in Employment Orientations/Workshops/Training

Project Contact: RON CURTIS, rmcurtis@navajonnsn.gov

ONLR will provide community/organization orientations/workshops to businesses and major employers conducting business on the Navajo Nation each week. Training will be provided to new companies and their program leadership to ensure the requirements of the NPEA are met.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Investigating unfair labor complaints

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

The ONLR Labor Compliance Officers accepted 45 formal unfair labor complaints from the general public. The LCO's assisted 192 individuals with inquiries into unfair labor practices. There were 35 notices of right to sue issued to the charging party to take their case to the Navajo Labor Commission, if they choose to do so.

There were 50 requests for additional

documentation from either the charging party or the respondent.

Monitoring Construction Worksites for Compliance

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

The ONLR Construction Employment Analyst conducted 62 worksite visits to monitor for NPEA compliance. Specifically, we monitor for preference of Navajos hired for all positions, wage rate enforcement and compliance, safety enforcement, worksite reporting requirements, and placing qualified Navajos in Supervisory positions. 95% of the worksites were in compliance with the mandates of the Navajo Preference in Employment Act.

Navajo Preference in Employment Act orientations/workshops

Accomplishment Date: 9/30/23

ONLR provided workshops/training to 4 tribal and non-tribal organizations during this period. A total of 131 participants attended the individual sessions.

GOALS

Monitor jobsites

Ensure compliance to the NPEA and other applicable laws and regulations of the ONLR and the Navajo Affirmative Action Plan. Schedule unannounced monitoring visits to the worksite to monitor for compliance to the NPEA.

Due to the forthcoming inclement weather, we may experience a decrease in construction activity during the winter months. Most worksites will close for the winter until warmer weather prevails.

Goal Target Date: Next Qtr

Provide direct services for all public clients

ONLR will continue to provide direct services to the public, such as; accepting new employment charges, follow-up on existing cases, issue notices of right to sue, issue requests for documentation, consult other employers for information, and provide assistance to clients who seek relief from their employer.

Goal Target Date:

Provide orientations/workshops

Complete workshop informative sessions are provided to all interested applicants who come into our office. Assist other tribal organizations/divisions/programs with orientation on the Navajo Preference in Employment act.

Goal Target Date: Next Qtr.

Navajo Nation TV & Film

PROJECTS

Studio Partnership with Albuquerque City Developers

Project Contact: Edsel Pete, Program Manager I, epete@navajo-nsn.gov

Co-development / Investment, purchase and development of SAMS (Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics and Science) Academy property at Double Eagle II; the SAMS point of contact is Manny Manriquez, Innovation & Commercial Development Manager, Aviation Department for City of Albuquerque; the city is in negotiations with a developer with intentions to build multiple sound stages and backlots and seeking partners to also include training. Proposal is to establish a post-production house at the SAMS Academy property as a partner with the developer and with a Post-Pro Film Partner, such as Sony Post Production, to commit to partner with the Navajo Nation in New Mexico for 10 years to provide training in all jobs of a full-service post production house to establish a robust post production economy in the state.

Example. Vancouver, BC post production industry began with a post-production alliance lobbying for tax incentivizing of post-production services and the investment in training Indigenous locals to learn how to edit and run a comprehensive editing services industry.

Navajo Talent Agent Program

Project Contact: Edsel Pete, Program Manager I, epete@navajo-nsn.gov

a. Track 1. NNTVF to train and provide employment opportunities through Film Production companies filming on the Navajo Nation. The NNTVF to provide workshops throughout the Navajo Nation to ensure a Film Ready Crew for film production.

b. Track 2. Dine College Film Certificate Program with comparable / equivalent credits transferable to Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University and University of Arizona.

Community partnership, training and education with accredited educational institutions can lead to qualifying Days toward film union membership, this initiative provides an access to internships, mentorship, and career pathways into the film and media jobs for our Navajo citizens.

FCC license

Project Contact: Edsel Pete, Program Manager I, epete@navajo-nsn.gov

a. Track 1. Apply directly to FCC for five (5) Television broadcast LPTV license and build-out infrastructure in Piney Hill, AZ (Summit); Ganado, AZ/Dilkon, AZ; Chinle, AZ; Kayenta, AZ (Black Mesa, AZ) and create agreements to rebroadcast Arizona PBS on Navajo Nation owned TV tower / infrastructure which include transmission of Emergency Alert Systems – Alerts of Over the Air Transmission (OAT).

b. Track 2. Partnership with Arizona PBS / Arizona PBS / NTUA with Co-Location agreement. This could mean establishing shared-cost opportunity to build out an infrastructure for TV towers on the Arizona side for Navajo Nation TV5 broadcast.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnership with Dine College - Film Certificate Program

Accomplishment Date: End of Fiscal Year 2024

The dialogue with the respective schools to discuss clarity and guidance on developing comparable curriculum for Film Certificate Program at Dine College which will then be transferable to NAU, ASU and UofA.

Production Crew Training Completion

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

Attending the Arizona Film & Digital Media and the Arizona Workforce Training center's workforce ready certification training gives our office an opportunity to finalize our training curriculum for our Navajo Talent Agent Program (NTAP) participants, the intent of the NTAP is create a workforce in industry. This training included wealth of hands-on, real-time, boots on the ground information about the film industry and why there is a desired need for film production assistants. We were able to identify there are various PA positions, not just one general PA position, went in-depth on the anatomy of filmmaking which include camera, lens, use of walkie talkies, NDA, business venture of filming, Audio, lighting, gaffing, grips, distribution, set jargons, etc. the training included various industry professionals as guest speakers and NNTVF personnel had an opportunity to ask related questions and to network with working professionals who are willing to assist the ongoing development of the NNTVF and its initiatives.

Indigenous Youth Media Workshop with NAU

Accomplishment Date: Jul-23

Accomplished during this travel was a presentation to the 24 Native American High School students who are participating in the Indigenous Youth Media Workshop, my presentation was about Navajo Nation TV & Film, and an overview of how as a Native American, our voices are becoming more exposed through media and that having a career in the film and media industry is a great endeavor. This assists our efforts to provide ongoing student film making workshops with High School students and College students alike.

GOALS

Market FILM NAVAJO to major film producers

Attend the American Film Market and or attend a National Film and Media Conference to entice film makers to produce their content on the Navajo Nation with Navajo talent and Crew.

Goal Target Date: End of 1st quarter.

Produce 1 programming content short for NNTV5

To produce Content for Navajo Nation TV OTA transmission - Channel 5

Goal Target Date: End of 1st quarter.

Perform a Student Film making workshop at Dine College

Provide a hands-on student film making workshop with Dine College students which includes hands on training equipment, lighting, camera, grips and PA departments. The outcome is train and provide entry level experience to Dine College students.

Goal Target Date: End of 1st Quarter

Department of Child Support Services

PROJECTS

Automated Child Support System Modernization

Project Contact: Judy Platero, Program Manager, jplatero@css.navajo-nsn.gov

DCSS has an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona Department of Economic Development including usage of the current automated child support system. With Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) and nationally automated child support systems are being modernized. The modernization includes using the most current available technology such as the Cloud, Sales Force and functionalities. Navajo Nation requests the new system, AZCARES to be Navajo oriented with Tribal Requirement, Navajo Nation Child Support Enforcement Act and Child Support Guidelines. The functions of case intake, parent locate, establishment of paternity, establishment of child support obligation, including medical

support, enforcement of child support court orders, modification of child support obligation if ordered by Navajo Nation Office of Hearings and Appeals. Last of all the collection and distribution of child support payments through Arizona Clearinghouse. Specific inclusion for Navajo Nation is an emphasis Document Generation on Navajo Nation forms, case movement to blocked to prevent Navajo Nation cases to the State of Arizona for consideration of jurisdiction. This project is a historic event for Navajo Nation Child Support Program to assist in creating a child support system that accommodates NN employees and Navajo parents as well. The anticipated completion of this project is January 2025.

Policy Development - Arizona Driver's License Suspension

Project Contact: Judy Platero, Program Manager / Chris Schneider, Attorney-NNDOJ, jplatero@css.navajo-nsn.gov

DCSS and DOJ are currently working on this enforcement remedy of suspension of Driver's License to encourage and motivate Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) to pay his or her child support. This Policy requires Navajo Council Oversight approval and a Plan Amendment to Federal Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). The purpose of any license suspension is not to punish the non-custodial parent. Rather, it is to encourage those non-custodial parents who do not pay child support on a regular basis to begin providing current support and an amount toward the child support arrearages for his or her child. The ultimate goal of the Navajo Nation Department of Child Support Services is to provide for children. The policy development will include notifying the non-custodial parent by first-class mail or personal service, if first class mail was unsuccessful that the non-custodial parent is in

arrears in his/her child support payments and his/her driver's license will be suspended 60 days from the receipt of the notification unless the non-custodial parent:

- Pays the entire arrearage amount balance;
- Enters into a payment plan; or
- Is in full compliance with an Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) ordered payment plan.
- The non-custodial parent may appeal the driver's license suspension indicated in the Notice of Intent to Suspend by requesting a hearing before OHA. If the appeal is filed within 60 days of receipt of the Notice of Intent to Suspend, a Stay of the suspension will be issued until the OHA hearing.

Once the non-custodial parent pays the arrearages in full, DCSS shall change the driver's license suspension status to "reinstatement requested" for issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines Revision/Legislation 0219-23

Project Contact: Judy Platero, Program Manager / Chris Schneider. DOJ Attorney, jplatero@css.navajo-nsn.gov

The current Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines JCJY-9-96 was adopted in 1996 and has not been revised. DCSS begin the process of updating the Guidelines in accordance to Navajo Nation Child Support Enforcement Act every four (4) years. In 2018, an attempt to revise the Guidelines however there were limited involvement in the Public Hearings held throughout the Navajo Nation. Since, then, with the assistance of Department staff,

Department of Justice and Office of Hearings and Appeals reviewed the Guidelines and made recommendations to revise. The primary revisions include:

- Definition of Means Tested,
- Exclusions from gross income,
- Subsequent Family Credit,
- Modification if there is a 20% increase or decrease of income,
- In-Kind/Non-Cash Contribution/Services

The revised Guidelines, Legislation 029-23, Sponsored by Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie was presented to Navajo Nation Law & Order Committee on September 25, 2023. The Committee approved the Legislation with a recommendation to increase the Child Support Schedule by 10% although Navajo Nation Department of Child Support recommended a 5% increase in the Schedule. The Health Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) has the final authority on this Legislation. The Legislation was on the HEHSC agenda on October 9, 2023; however, the legislation was tabled as the members noted they received the legislation that morning. In addition to the tabling legislation the Committee requested a Work Session within 30 days. The plans for the Work Session is being discussed with DCSS administration and plan to include DHR for assistance and guidance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Office - Crownpoint

Accomplishment Date: 9/29/23

DCSS is working with Navajo Nation Land Office and four (4) other Navajo Nation Departments and Navajo Nation Council Delegate Danny Simpson

on Resolution CMY-43-23, An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$3,879,180 from the Sihasin Fund for a New Modular Office Building in Crownpoint; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan.

Division of Community Development is working on a Contract to procure a Contract with a Construction Vendor. The Department Managers reviewed the proposed design of building to ensure department accommodations. We continue to meet periodically and hope to get the building soon. In the meantime, Crownpoint DCSS staff will be preparing for the relocation, we are aware of the intense work that involves moving. Despite that we are anxious to relocate.

Arizona User Acceptance Testing (UAT)

Accomplishment Date: 29-Sep-23

The new system development, AZCARES has many stages to complete. The grooming sessions that included what Navajo Nation proposes to be available and accessible for Case Management and Customer Portal. DCSS currently completed 95% of the testing. The testing included review of over 1,300 test items, the staff tested each and identified Bugs and Exceptions for Deloitte (vendor) to fix the Bugs for retesting. The staff that participated in this UAT had this responsibility including the cases assigned to them. They did an exceptional job that deserved recognition and rewarding. The second UAT begins again this month, the same participants will be continuing after they receive instructions from AZDES.

Child Support Collections / Case Count

Accomplishment Date: Aug-25

Navajo Nation Department of Child Support collections (excluding September) are as follows:

- Chinle: \$1,315,454.00
- Ft. Defiance: \$1,264,761.00
- Tuba City: \$1,194,806.00
- Crownpoint: \$883,662.00
- Shiprock: \$987,357.00
- TOTAL \$5,646,040.00
- CASE COUNT
- Chinle: 1,430
- Ft. Defiance: 1,310
- Tuba City: 999
- Crownpoint: 2,241
- Shiprock: 668
- TOTAL 6,648

This report excludes September 2023 for the New Mexico offices since DCSS has not received the report yet. The active case count has tremendously decreased due to case closures of cases that were no longer workable for various reasons.

GOALS

Crownpoint Office Relocation

Per Resolution CMY-43-23, DCSS is working with several Navajo Nation Department Managers, Division of Community Development and Honorable Delegate Danny Simpson with the planning of the new modular building to house five (5) departments at Crownpoint,

New Mexico. DCSS join this effort after the emergency legislation was approved by Navajo Nation Council. DCSS currently occupies a merchant space at Navajo Nation Shopping Center and informed the need for more economic development in the community. DCSS space will accommodate seven (7) department staff. The building design was drafted for review by departments included. It is anticipated the building will be completed within six (6) months.

Goal Target Date: 30-Sep-23

Office Modernization and Upgrades

DCSS goal is to upgrade office spaces to promote a safe and healthy work environment. The upgrade of the office spaces include but not limited to design/consultation, delivery and installation services will be solicited via Navajo Nation Procurement Policies. An office space that is accommodating and appealing to employees and Child Support customer seeking services would promote quality child support services that is appreciated. DCSS administration is obligated to provide for its personnel and office spaces.

Goal Target Date: 30-Sep-24

Child Support Guideline Revision

Navajo Nation Child Support Act at 9 N.N.C. Subsection (A)(7), provides that review and revision of Child Support Guidelines should be done at least once every four (4) years to ensure the amount are periodically adjusted to support associated costs with care and support of children within the Navajo Nation. To keep in compliance with Navajo Nation law and federal funding guidelines, DCSS and Department of Justice reviewed and submitted the revised Guideline to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration.

The Navajo Nation Law & Order approved the legislation with a recommendation to increase the Schedule by 10% rather than the 5% recommended by the Department.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

Division of Natural Resources

Navajo Parks & Recreation Department

PROJECTS

Four Corners Powerline Extension

Project Contact: Ray Francisco, Rfrancisco@navajo-nsn.gov

The powerline when activated will power the park office, fee stations and maintenance yard and will later be extended further into the park.

Lower Antelope Canyon Access Road and Parking Lot

Project Contact: Effie M. Yazzie, emyazzie@yahoo.com

The current access road is hazardous and the new access will provide safer turn and provide additional paved parking.

Central Office Modular Building

Project Contact: Marcus Murphy, Mmurphy@navajo-nsn.gov

The new building will have space for additional 12 staff that currently are working from the NN Museum and will consolidate the project development workers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Canyon de Chelly Campground

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

The project was started in October 2023 with a Request for Bid to establish ramadas and picnic tables for the group site at the campground. A selection on the contractor was made and contract awarded in January 2023 and two large ramadas with concrete floor was completed. The sites will be available to campers and local users.

Active Shooter Training

Accomplishment Date: Aug-23

After incidents of threats at two tribal park sites the Park Ranger section arranged for training to be conducted by the Coconino County Sheriff for all tribal park staff and workers. Two trainings were conducted and over 45 staff received training on actions to take in case of active shooter report or threats.

LCR Viewpoints

Accomplishment Date: Jul-23

A Request for Proposals was issued to have a

market feasibility study at two viewpoints at the park. A consultant was selected and a site visit made and possibility of the type of development and improvements done.

GOALS

Strategic Plan

The department has a five year strategic plan that expired in 2022 and due to the change in administration at the President's Office a new plan needed to be done. The new plan will address the Nygren administration priorities.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

Staffing Upgrade

Due to low salary and remote locations of the parks, there is a large number of vacancies at the parks and seriously hampering effective services. By upgrading the positions it is hoped that the public will be more willing to apply for jobs.

Goal Target Date: Mar-24

Housing

Due to the remote locations, workers have to commute long distances to work as well as the need for more coverage after hours, which can be addressed by providing housing. Residential trailers will be purchased and set up for security purposes.

Goal Target Date: Apr-24

Department of Agriculture

PROJECTS

Equine Management

Project Contact: Olin C. Begay, ocbegay@navajo-nnsn.gov

The Equine Management Team held 8 successful equine rescue operations in Nazlini, Chinle, Steamboat, Kaibeto, Nageezi, Klagetoh, Many Farms, and Kindahlichii during the 4th Quarter. A total of 569 equine were rescued and 61 seized in coordination with the BIA, Navajo Rangers, and Grazing Officials.

The program currently addresses the feral horse population on the Navajo Nation. The program also provides an equine reward program for voluntary surrender of no brand equine by Navajo Nation residents. The reward program is expected to begin again in November.

Livestock Management Incentive

Project Contact: Renelda Begay, renelda.begay@navajo-nnsn.gov

The Livestock Management Incentive Program received 1,141 applications by the August 18th deadline. 860 applications were complete and 281 were incomplete. The program approved 570 applications with 286 applications disapproved. 174 Request for Direct Payments (RDP) was submitted to Accounts Payable for a total amount of \$413,000.00. The program is currently awaiting allocation for the next business unit to process payments for the remaining \$981,000.00.

The program was established through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to provide direct services and benefits to Navajo ranchers and farmers. The program is expected to begin again in January.

Farm and Garden Incentive

Project Contact: Kim Johnson, kjohnson@navajo-nnsn.gov

The Farm and Garden Incentive Program received 1,007 applications by the August 18th deadline. 764 applications were complete and 243 were incomplete. The program approved 523 applications with 247 applications disapproved. 276 Request for Direct Payments (RDP) was submitted to Accounts Payable for a total amount of \$158,500.00. The program is currently awaiting allocation for the next business unit to process payments for the remaining \$162,000.00.

The program was established through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to provide Navajo agriculture producers and gardeners an incentive to produce crops and increase food production on the Navajo Nation. The program is expected to begin again in January.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DNR Strategic Planning Sessions

Accomplishment Date: 13-Sep-23

The Department Manager and Staff within the Department of Agriculture attended the DNR Strategic Planning Session at San Juan College in Farmington, NM. The Department was heavily involved with creating the vision and mission statement for the Division of Natural Resources.

Each member contributed to each topic from revenue generation to key result areas, and strategic goals.

The Department has attended approximately 5 Strategic Planning sessions since the beginning of 2023. Staff who attended will utilize this information from these sessions to align themselves with the current administration's priorities which will be applied to each program under the department. The Department has begun the process with the Veterinary Livestock Program to ensure the program is operating at full capacity once the vet clinics have opened.

Other programs within the department will follow suit as staff will hold internal strategic planning sessions to re-evaluate goals, priorities, and the future of each program.

LFPA Plus Application

Accomplishment Date: 18-Aug-23

The Navajo Nation was awarded \$5.55 million through the LFPA Plus program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture worked in tandem with the Navajo Washington Office (NWO) to secure funding through the tribal portion of the program. The department completed and submitted the application on behalf of the Navajo Nation back in May 2023 and was notified of the award in August 2023. 2 employees within the department were heavily involved with the process, as they were the main points of contact between the USDA and NWO.

The funding will be used to promote food sovereignty on the Navajo Nation. The Nation is primarily referred to as a food desert and the grant will be used to purchase raw food from the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry

(NAPI) which will be distributed to underserved communities, schools, food banks and various organizations on the Nation.

This collaboration between NNDA, NWO, and NAPI will secure food for the Navajo people and the department hopes to be more involved with grants in the near future.

Navajo Nation Events

Accomplishment Date: 10-Sep-23

The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture oversees the Navajo Fair Office and the office successfully held two events during Quarter 4 of FY' 23. The fair office held the annual 4th of July Celebration from July 2-4 and the 75th Annual Navajo Nation Fair from September 2-10. The department highlighted the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) through various events and workshops held during both fairs. The department was able to showcase local farmers through their production of crops, as well as animal husbandry with local ranchers.

The fair office was in contact with the Office of the President and Vice President and other departments and divisions on the Navajo Nation. Without the combined effort from the Navajo programs, the fairs would not have been as successful. Some major events were made possible due to the funding secured through sponsorships which equated to approximately \$700,000.

The office worked diligently with fair coordinators for both events to ensure the safety and well being of all attendees was a top priority. Planning for both fairs began in February 2023 where a majority of NNDA staff attended key meetings to become familiar with the events to be held at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in Window Rock, AZ.

GOALS

AIF Year 3

The Department of Agriculture plans to secure business units for the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Year 3 budgets. The budgets were submitted to the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) on July 13 and returned on August 28. The budgets have been at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) since then as the department is awaiting business unit numbers to utilize the funds for various projects which include the Livestock Incentive Program, Farm & Garden Incentive Program, Horse Management Program, and others. The funds will also be utilized for livestock feed assistance, administrative support, fencing, and water delivery systems. This funding will enable the department to run efficiently as we carry out direct assistance to our grazing officials, farmers, ranchers, and other departments who rely on the AIF for their programs and projects.

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

Vacant Positions

The Department of Agriculture (NND) plans to fill vacant positions such as the NND Office Specialist, Navajo Fair Office Senior Office Specialist, Navajo Fair Manager, Range Conservation, and Principal Extension Agent. The JVA's were submitted to the Department of Personnel Management Recruitment Section for advertisement. The department will be able to begin interviews and select ideal candidates to help move NND forward. It is critical these roles are filled to continue providing direct services to the Navajo people in regards to grazing permits, elected officials, and the general public.

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

Veterinary Clinics

The Navajo Veterinary Livestock Program is seeking to re-open the Tse Bonito Veterinary Clinic to provide large animal services to Navajo Nation residents. The clinic experienced a flood and has undergone repairs since. Once a licensed veterinarian has been secured, the vet clinic will be in full operation and able to provide critical veterinary services to the Nation. Veterinary staff will no longer be stationed at the Department of Agriculture main office to focus on their duties as a program. The opening of the vet clinic will allow the program to work towards their goals as they strategize and prioritize for the future of the veterinarian program.

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

Navajo Land Department

PROJECTS

Homesite Uploader

Project Contact: Byron Bitsoie Sr., Anjanette Owens, bbitsoie@nnld.org

The home site up-loader will help keep track of the process. It will be uploaded by the agency office and follows the proper steps before proceeding to the next step. There are a total of 7 tiers of approval for a complete home site lease approval. Each step can be viewed by NLD staff and all reviewers who want access. This will help all agency offices to answer clients questions from different agencies on their status of their

application. There still maybe some modifications that need to be added with time but this will definitely help out the people, chapters, utility providers, departments, and staff.

3. Developing a database with livable structures for Emergency, Home site, and evidentiary purposes.

Project Contact: Byron Bitsoie Sr., bbitsoie@nnld.org

During our last winter storm our GIS Section received multiple calls and emails in regards to maps for the highly forested areas. They were having issue with locating homes within the forested areas where community members were stranded from the amount of snowfall. We didnt have all livable structures located at the time but we were able to give them maps of structures from a topographical map. It wasnt updated but this made us realize we need to locate these structures on the most updated aerial imagery map we have on file. So we started to locate these structures in the forested areas as priority. The forested areas are complete and we are now working on the overall Navajo Nation. We have completed 29 Chapters at this time and are currently working towards Eastern Navajo. This will help us see where structures are and which have home site leases on them that are approved.

China Springs Loop purchase, Home site lease regulations amendments to Section 9.00

Project Contact: Byron Bitsoie Sr., Byron Bitsoie Sr., Anjanette Owens, bbitsoie@nnld.org, bbitsoie@nnld.org

We are currently working on the purchase process of land along the China Springs loop road. We have been in multiple meetings with Rock Springs chapter, Delegate Seth Damon, and Gallup Land Partners. We were on hold for 9 months with the offer from the new administration. Just recently we were given the okay by the President to proceed with the purchase from the Division Director of Natural Resources. A formal offer has been received by GLP and we just finished the appraisal on our end for a counter offer. The meeting has been completed and agreed on submitting our letter to GLP with the counter offer. This would help the 5 families that are living within the private land owned by GLP to prevent the residences to vacate and move elsewhere. The Navajo Nation would also acquire more Fee Simple land near Allotments and Trust land around this section of land. We are currently working on amendments to the regulations for existing structures without home site leases. We have added several changes to the regulations to make the process easier for ARPA projects to be expedited for utility providers. We are working with RDC when completed to move forward for legislation to amend the 2016 Regulations. We are meeting on a weekly basis with DNR, NNDOJ, GLDD, NNHPD, NNFWS, and NLD to determine what changes and additions need to be added from all our aspects of issues that have arose during the past few years since Covid. We should be able to have this finished by the end of November with the amendments for legislation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Disseminate Home site lease applications

Accomplishment Date: July-September

- Disseminated 1,038 homesite lease applications (July)
- Disseminated 1,378 homesite lease applications (August)
- Disseminated 1,166 homesite lease applications (September)

Public Outreach presentations on the homesite lease process

Accomplishment Date: July-September

We have been hitting the chapters hard with public outreach on the home site lease process, regulations, and any and all questions or comments from the communities. We did get promotional items to bring in the public to ask questions and reward them with a promo item. This has been working to educate the misinformation that has been going around. We have been getting a lot of positive feedback as well from these presentations.

Process Land Status Verifications for FBI, NNCI and other Public Safety entities.,Developing a database with livable structures for Emergency, Home site, and evidentiary purposes.

Accomplishment Date: July-September, July-September

- Process Land Status Verifications for FBI, NNCI and other Public Safety entities. 16 Completed (July)
- Process Land Status Verifications for FBI, NNCI and other Public Safety entities. 12 Completed (August)
- Process Land Status Verifications for FBI, NNCI and other Public Safety entities.

19 Completed (September), Developing a database with livable structures for Emergency, Home site, and evidentiary purposes. 4 Chapters completed (July)

- Developing a database with livable structures for Emergency, Home site, and evidentiary purposes. 3 Chapters completed (August)
- Developing a database with livable structures for Emergency, Home site, and evidentiary purposes. 4 Chapters completed (September)

GOALS

Public Outreach to 20 Chapters

Have pamphlets available for chapters. Make sure all our information is up to date at each chapter. Information and contact information available to all community members for easy access.

Goal Target Date: End of Q1 FY24

Hiring more staff at all agencies

Making sure we have full staff if possible at all agencies to fulfill the needs or direct services for all clients.

Goal Target Date: End of Q1 FY24

Working towards Quality Customer Service for all

We need to really work hard on having quality customer service to the many clients we have daily. Work towards being more professional, making the extra effort for clients, teamwork within the department, and work towards promotions for staff to keep the morale high.

Goal Target Date: End of Q1 FY24

Department of Water Resources

PROJECTS

Grant Agreement for San Juan River Dineh Water Users Association

Project Contact: Jason John, jasonjohn@navajonsn.gov

Grant Agreement for San Juan River Dine Water Users Association signed by President Nygren in September 2023 for \$783,500 in accordance with Resolution CD-56-22 to implement the Shiprock Lateral Water Conversion - Phase 1 Salinity Control Project. Grant Agreement for San Juan River Dine Water Users Association not implemented (contract number not assigned) due to additional insurance for "pollution control" that is needed according to Risk Management. San Juan River Dine Water Users Association will look into acquiring additional insurance. Hope to have insurance issue resolved in October 2023 so Office of Controller can finalize Grant Agreement and make first payment.

Western Navajo Pipeline Phase 1 Water Treatment Plant Final Design

Project Contact: Jason John, jasonjohn@navajonsn.gov

The Navajo Nation is funding the planning, design and construction of the Western Navajo Pipeline Phase 1 Projects that include the Water Treatment Plant to delivery up to 950 acre-feet of water per year for development at Antelope Canyon and Lechee region. Final design is anticipated to be completed by March 30, 2023 for the Water Treatment Plant which will be using water from the Lake Powell Intake previously used for the Navajo Generating Station.

Crownpoint Lateral of the Navajo - Gallup Water Supply Project

Project Contact: Jason John, jasonjohn@navajonsn.gov

The project is divided into Reaches 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3. The Reaches are entering into various stages of final design that includes additional capacity to provide water south of Crownpoint for the chapters near Thoreau, NM. The additional capacity will be paid for by the Navajo Nation since it was not part of the original San Juan Settlement Agreement for the Project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Executed MOU for Many Mules Project on Black Mesa

Accomplishment Date: 30-Aug-23

Executed Memorandum of Understanding for the Many Mules Water Supply Project on Black Mesa that will assist in activating Phase 1 water deliveries.

Navajo Gallup Water Supply

Project Amendments Act (Senate Bill 1898)

Accomplishment Date: 12-Jul-23

U.S. Senate hearing held on Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project on S. 1898 held on July 12, 2023. Bill is sponsored by Senator Ben Ray Lujan. Bill will continue to make its way through Congress for approval.

NM Projects approved for time extensions

Accomplishment Date: 27-Sep-23

New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund Board approved time extension requests for five 2020 water related projects at Alamo, Tohatchi, Coyote Canyon, Two Grey Hills, and Chichiltah.

1. Alamo – Sewer Line Extension 609-20-TF06 extension to December 20, 2023.

2. Tohachi – Regional Water Project Design Grant 609-20-TF02 extension to October 31, 2024. Project design to assist delivery of Navajo – Gallup Water Supply Project water.

3. Coyote Canyon - Regional Beacon Bisti N9 Lateral Water Project

609-20-TF04 extension to January 12, 2025. Project to assist delivery of Navajo – Gallup Water Supply Project water.

4. Two Grey Hills – Regional Water Project Design Grant 609-20-TF07 extension to June 28, 2024. Project design to assist delivery of Navajo – Gallup Water Supply Project water.

5. Chichiltah – Water Supply 609-20-TF08

extension to November 12, 2024. Project is for completion of water wells in Chichiltah

GOALS

Issue Grant Agreement to San Juan River Dineh Water Users Association

Grant Agreement for San Juan River Dine Water Users Association not implemented due to additional insurance for “pollution control” that is needed from Risk Management. San Juan River Dine Water Users Association will look into acquiring additional insurance.

Goal Target Date: 15-Nov-23

Complete Chichiltah Sewer Line Extension Project IGA 609-20-TF06

Intergovernmental Agreement with New Mexico was extended to December 30, 2023. Contract amendment is awaiting extension of business unit between Division of Community Development and Office of Management and Budget before processing.

Goal Target Date: 30-Dec-23

Negotiate a Water Rights Settlement Agreement in Arizona

The Navajo Nation Negotiation Team will continue to meet with the Hopi Tribe and Arizona to attempt to negotiate a water rights settlement for the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basin and Little Colorado River Basin of Arizona.

Goal Target Date: 30-Dec-23

Department of Fish and Wildlife

PROJECTS

Design and build a new fish rearing facility at the Navajo Nation Fish Hatchery in Toadlena, NM..

Project Contact: Glenn Selby, Fish Biologist, gselby@nndfw.org

The design of the facility is nearing completion. The next task is to construct the new fish rearing facility that includes installing a metal building/shop area, with 4 raceways. All fish raised at the hatchery will be raised inside/indoors and this will eliminate the use of outside ponds. This will be less stressful on the fish and the fish will be more uniform in size. The overall fish production numbers will remain the same.

The total project budget is \$3,283,515 and the Contract was signed by President Nygren in FY 2023.

Renovation of Wheatfield's Lake Recreation Area user facilities.

Project Contact: Glenn Selby, Fish Biologist, gselby@nndfw.org

This project consists of designing and engineering of 2 day-use areas and the north and south campgrounds. At the completion of the design and engineering phase, the project plan is to construct day-use facilities at the south day-

use area. This includes installing clusters of 3 picnic tables, trash receptacles and grills.

The total project cost is \$1,092,140.

Native Plant Greenhouse and Seed Bank at the Navajo Nation Zoo.

Project Contact: Jesse Mike, Forester, Dine' Native Plants Program, jmike@nndfw.org

The project is to construct a seed bank and greenhouse facility to provide a permanent location to store native seeds and grow plants for ecological restoration on the Navajo nation.

The contract for the general contractor and architect has been finalized and the kick-off meeting to begin the project is scheduled the week of October 15, 2023.

The total project cost is \$699,903.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 Annual Youth Hunt

Accomplishment Date: 24-Sep-23

DFWL has been hosting an Annual Youth Hunt since 2005. The program is designed for Navajo youth between the ages of 12 to 16 years old who have an interest in learning to hunt but have no one to teach them. Each year, up to 15 youth are selected for the program and they are taken through a Hunter's Education class and 2 firearm range practice days to ensure they are capable of handling firearms safely. After completing the training, they are taken on a mule deer hunt. They are assigned to an adult mentor who is an employee of the Department or an employee of

the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Each participant is fully outfitted with hunt clothing, binoculars, sleeping bags, back packs, GPS units and other hunting equipment that is donated by sponsors. In addition to the hunt, the Department uses this opportunity to educate the youth on natural resource careers and field classes in wildlife management/outdoor survival are provided during the hunt event.

DFWL hosted the 2023 Navajo Nation Annual Youth Hunt. A total of 14 Navajo youth successfully completed required training in Hunter's Education and Firearm Range practice and were taken on the 3-day mule deer hunt. The hunt was held in late September and all 14 hunters successfully harvested their first mule deer. The meat carcasses were transported to Pinetop, Arizona where the meat was prepared by a certified Meat Processor. The meat will be distributed to the youth hunter's families in mid-October.

Education and outreach regarding the biological clearances required for projects and homesite leases.

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The Natural Heritage Program participated in the outreach events at the NN Fair, the Homesite Expo and Centennial Celebration. NHP staff provided information on biological clearances that are required for homesites and projects on the Navajo Nation.

In the 4th Quarter, NHP completed the following:

56 homesite lease biological clearances

100 biological clearances for other projects

In FY 23, NHP completed the following:

625 homesite lease biological clearances

255 biological clearances for other projects

Wildlife Law Enforcement Education and Outreach

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

As part of its ongoing effort to reduce wildlife crimes and educate the public on ethical and safe hunting practices, the Wildlife Law Enforcement Section completed 3 Hunter Education classes and certified 45 individuals as safe hunters. Wildlife Conservation Officers are certified Hunter Education Instructors.

Additionally, Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers had 280 permit checks to begin the fall big game hunts. Officers also checked fishermen and fisherwomen at Tsaile, Wheatfields and Morgan Lakes. As part of the lake checks, Officers surveyed those fishing and submitted 90 creel surveys that documented the number of hours fished, the baits used, number of fish caught, etc.

GOALS

Establish Position Classifications

Coordinate with the Department of Personnel Management to complete position classifications for Climate Change Program positions (Wildlife Technician (3), Animal Control Program (Principal Animal Control Officer and Office Specialist) and Wildlife Law Enforcement (Wildlife Conservation Officer for New Lands).

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Ecological Restoration

Dine' Native Plants Program will complete major restoration activities on 3 target streams in the Chuska Mountains. This includes installing 100 beaver dam analogs and instream induced meandering structures, and planting 300-400 native cottonwood and willow trees.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Morgan Lake Fisheries Improvements

Install a boat dock and fishing pier at Morgan Lake. The contract for the project is complete and work will commence in the 1st Quarter of FY 2024.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department

PROJECTS

OSMRE Grant - Canyon Vista Projects

Project Contact: Ernest Grayeyes, Civil Engineer, egrayeyes@navajo-nsn.gov

continue to work on the Canyon Vista Abandoned Mine Land coal projects located in Coalmine Canyon, Chilchinbeto and Burnham chapters.

GIS Database - eAMLIS

Project Contact: Melvin Yazzie, Principal Mining Engineer, mh_yazzie@navajo-nsn.gov

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers award FY24 RAMS contract to Broadbent to continue the enhancement of the NAMLRD GIS database, called eAMLIS or electronic Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System. This inventory system will enhance the services and value of NAMLRD.

OSMRE - Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization Grant

Project Contact: Marietta Jensen, Programs and Projects Specialist, mjensen@navajo-nsn.gov

AMLER/OSMRE – Kayenta Industrial Park and Shonto Hotel Projects; provide technical assistance to Chilchinbeto, NM and Tuba City, AZ Chapters for new Convenience Store and Hotel.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization Grants

Accomplishment Date: May-24

Kayenta Industrial Park Project, MOA with Kayenta Township Commission effective August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2023. The Coronavirus-19 Pandemic occurred during grant project timeline. Construction began April 2023, and completed September 21, 2023, with Harward and Reec, Navajo AML's funding contribution was \$3,292,758.00; this amount has been paid out July 27, 2023 to KTC. Construction was completed September 21, 2023, a final walk thru and inspection will occur the week of October 2, 2023.

KTC will submit its final report with costs, and budgets. The Grant was a no cost time extension via Mod 1 for 6 months to December 31, 2023, AML is working with the NN Government Finance and OSM to close. This is the first known AMLER project completed in the Western US for OSM.

Shonto Hotel Project, Phase II; Administrative Agreement with NN Division of Economic Development effective August 1, 2022 thru January 31, 2025, DED is the lead project manager on behalf of Shonto for the OSM/AMLER Grant. The amount of \$3,197,942.33 is identified as Phase II work with Medallion/Woodruff Benally Construction. DED recently processed Change Order 3 to include AMLER funds of \$3.1M, the project is expected to be completed by April/May 2024. Additional funds are set aside from ARPA of \$3+M, project total is estimated at \$15 million.

OSMRE Grant Close-Out

Accomplishment Date: Dec-23

NAMLRD completed close out of SF 425 and Performance and Close Out Reports for the following Fiscal Years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Some SF 425 and Close Out Performance Reports need some revisions to the reports. In July 2023, the SF 425 were re submitted by Navajo Nation Office of the Controller. In August 2023, three Performance Reports were re- submitted by NAMLRD. NAMLRD is currently waiting for official close out reports and the de-obligated funds to be returned to NAMLRD for administrative and project activities.

Grants for FY'11, FY'12, FY'13, FY'14, FY'15, FY'16, FY'17, FY'18, FY'19 and FY'20 were uploaded into the OSM grantsolutions.gov database for; Final Financial Reports and Final Closeout Reports.

BIL Grant Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Award of \$1.6 million

Accomplishment Date: Oct-26

BIL Grant: AML has applied for its 1st OSM/ BIL Grant for the amount of \$1,661,953.00 encompassing Personnel, supplies, hardware software, capital improvement, new office building in Tuba City, AZ and projects for Coalmine Canyon, Nenanezaad, Chilchinbeto for planning to include NEPA and engineering designs.

GOALS

Annual NAMLRD Strategic Planning Meeting

To update strategic plan for fiscal year 2023 to 2024, update annual standards for employee job duties/responsibilities, update training plan, update five-year plan and plan of operation.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

Staff Training and Development

Continue training for staff with OSMRE NTTP in abandoned mine inventory, reclamation and remediation of coal sites.

Identify and seek training in the monitoring and maintenance of Uranium Mill Tailings Reduction Act (UMTRA) sites.

Identify and seek safety training in all areas of activity.

Goal Target Date: Dec-23

Secure direct funding

Continue to meet with federal funding agencies to secure direct funding to the NAMLRD program.

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

Navajo Forestry Department

PROJECTS

Forest Carbon Offset

Project Contact: Alexious Becenti, acbecenti@navajo-nsn.gov

The outcome of this initiative is to generate revenue for the Navajo Nation and for the Navajo Forestry Department for the purposes of allowing continued management of the Navajo Nation's forest resources. Currently the Navajo Nation is working with a consultant to assist with this effort. Forest inventory tasks have been completed and this information is currently being verified with the determination of the amount of carbon collected, within the forest, soon to be determined.

Forestry - Regulatory ARPA

Project Contact: Michael Yazzie, michaelyazzie@navajo-nsn.gov

This project is to provide tree cutting permits for infrastructure projects that are being funded by ARPA funds. The project allows the Navajo Forestry Department to assist with the construction of infrastructure projects, such

as the construction of powerlines on the Navajo Nation, for those projects that require a tree cutting permit and utilizing ARPA funds. Staff funded under this initiative are focused on getting the infrastructure projects permitted so that construction can be completed.

Forestry Management Projects

Project Contact: Alexious Becenti, acbecenti@navajo-nsn.gov

There are various projects that are listed under this one broad project category. The projects that are being performed under this category are as follows;

- El Paso Thinning - this project allows the protection of property and infrastructure, in the event of a wildland fire, by thinning out dense areas of the forest near the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline.
- Oak Ridge Timber Sale - this project allows for management of the commercial forest area, through the harvest and potential sale of timber.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Navajo Nation Improved Forest Management Project

Accomplishment Date: 29-Aug-23

As part of the Forest Carbon Offset Initiative, the Navajo Nation's project, referred to a Improved Forest Management Project was officially listed and registered with the California Air Resources Board. This allows the Navajo Nation to continue the planning process for advancing the project, which includes revision of the forest management plan to incorporate carbon offset language and

activities. Further, with the completion of the inventory process, calculations of the amount of carbon stored currently, with the Navajo forest, can continue and eventually determine the amount of revenue that will be generated through this project.

Forest Product Permitting

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

A total of 6,877 forest product permits were issued to Navajo individuals for the purposes of firewood, post, bough and pole harvesting. Of this amount, 1,410 permits were issued to Senior Citizens, 3,297 permits were issued for personal use firewood needs, 46 permits were issued for post harvesting, 33 permits were issued for bough harvesting, 2,064 permits were issued for firewood resale purposes and 27 pole permits were issued to individuals wanting poles for hogan/cabin/livestock corral construction.

In addition, the above-mentioned forest product permits issues, the Navajo Forestry Department also facilitated the issuance of 73 Timber Cutting Permits for NTUA infrastructure projects across the Navajo Nation.

Oak Ridge Timber Sale

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

Additional areas were determined to be treatable and manageable with the project area. Forest inventory procedures were performed within these areas to determine the types of treatments that could occur in these areas and to also determine an estimated amount of volume that could be extracted from these areas. These areas have been mapped and silvicultural prescriptions (treatment methods) have been developed for

these new areas. A total of 2,264 acres were identified for potential treatment.

GOALS

Website Design and Completion

In working with the Navajo Nation Department of Information and Technology, the Navajo Forestry Department is looking to have its website completed and functionable by the end of the 1st Quarter of FY2024. This will allow the posting of information regarding the Department, its activities, contact information, and processes for various actions, such as obtaining a forest product permit.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Forest Carbon Offset Project

Continue to be actively involved with the overall Carbon Offset project by participating in monthly virtual meetings, providing additional information and clarification of the inventory data collected, meeting and discussing potential timber processing options for the Navajo Nation. This involvement will ensure that information is communicated correctly and that the Navajo Nation is kept abreast of all the activities involved with overall development of the initiative.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Oak Ridge Timber Sale

Continue to pursue the management actions being proposed within this project area. Have the silvicultural treatment prescriptions approved, by a certified silviculturalist, and develop Professional Service Contracts for the purposes of

conducting cultural and biological surveys and providing clearance documents for the proposed treatment areas.

Goal Target Date: 31-Dec-23

Minerals Department

PROJECTS

Sand and Gravel

Project Contact: Rowena Cheromiah,
rcheromiah@navajo-nsn.gov

Drake Cement (Drake) completed their initial geologic investigation and have sampling results. Based on the results, Drake is interested in developing and operating a Sand and Gravel pit to produce clay/bentonite for their cement operation near Camron, AZ. Minerals Department provided Drake a Sand and Gravel Lease Application with instructions. Drake plans to seek chapter support.

Submitted the new sand and gravel lease for the Apache County Carrizo Sand and Gravel pit to BIA. The new lease waives all consideration and fees and reduces the reclamation bond. Prepared draft letter to BIA for President Nygren's signature agreeing to the waivers of fees; President Nygren signed the letter and the new lease. The package was sent to the BIA for processing.

Working with U.S. EPA to locate Sand and Gravel resources to use as fill material for reclamation of abandoned uranium mines. There are over 500 abandon mines across the Navajo Nation. The U.S.

EPA is looking to either open their own Sand and Gravel pit or find enough excess Sand and Gravel material to be used in the reclamation of the abandoned sites. We had a field trip to meet with U.S. EPA and Arcadis, their technical company, and NNEPA. We looked for excess Sand and Gravel material to use in the remediation of the local closed uranium mines. We visited the following different sites near Cameron:

1. Moenkopi Wash is a possible location but too much water is running in the wash.
2. Northeast of Cameron area has an old disturbed pit but this area will need to be leased.
3. The Shadow Mountain Sand and Gravel pit is a very good location as it has a lot of excess material on the site and a lot of material that could still be mined. We need to decide if we can re-open the operation because it may include cultural sites in the area.
4. East of Cameron on HY 6730 there were a few earthen dams and washes that could be used for remediation.

U.S.EPA filed for an Excess Sand and Gravel permit. A geologic permit was issued for this area.

An Excess Sand and Gravel inspection was performed with Mr. Gilbert Dayzie, USEPA, for the same purpose of remediation of abandon Uranium mines. There were several locations in the Red Valley area to use as fill material. We identified material in the Cove area to be used for water diversion and retention. These are old disturbed areas with excess material that could be used. Mr. Dayzie working to get Chapter Approval of the areas we identified. Minerals issued him an excess Sand and Gravel permit for the material in the area.

An Excess Sand and Gravel inspection was performed with Mr. Paul Madson, Chapter President for the Chilchinbeto Chapter. They are looking for material to use to fill and level the parking lot around the chapter house and clinic before they pave the area. There are several locations in this area. These are old disturbed areas with excess material. He is working on getting Chapter Approval of the areas. This Chapter was issued an Excess Sand and Gravel Permit for the removal and utilization of excess sand.

Blue Gap Sand and Gravel Chapter was issued an Excess Sand and Gravel Permit for removal and utilization of excess sand and gravel material from the "Sitting Giant Pit" and Sand dunes located Northwest of the Chapter compound along N-29, to make minor road improvements along N-29, N-8068/69 and minor bus routes.

Arrowhead Inc. (Cove/Red Valley) was issued an Excess Sand and Gravel permit for removal and utilization of excess sand and gravel material from Borrow Area 1 Mittenrock Pit, Borrow Area 2 Mittenrock Earthen Dam, and Borrow Area 3 CTS Borrow, to help with the remediation and reclamation of abandon Uranium mines.

An on-site inspection at Cutdi Gadii'ahi/To'koi Chapter was performed to inspect possible excess Sand and Gravel sites. The Chapter has over 17 washes that fill up with excess sand and gravel and the washes need to be cleaned out. In process of putting together an excess sand and gravel permit.

Commerical Transmission Rights-of-Ways

Project Contact: Rowena Cheromiah,
rcheromiah@navajo-nsn.gov

Working with Tucson Electric Power (TEP) on a new commercial Right-of-Way for two (2) 345 KV transmission lines from the San Juan Generating Station in Farmington, New Mexico, to Tucson, Arizona. The original Grant of Easement for Right-of-Way was granted to TEP on August 21, 1973, and expired after 50 years. TEP requested a renewal for 25 years; however, because of changes required to the terms of the original ROW, a renewal cannot be granted. Those changes include removing the two microwave communication stations and associated acreage. Group discussions among Minerals, GLDD, and DOJ have taken place to ensure we agree on next steps.

Working with Tri-State Generation on a new commercial Right-of-Way for a 115 KV transmission line for a section of line near Church Rock, New Mexico. Group discussions among Minerals, GLDD and Tri-State have taken place to ensure next steps are communicated in a timely manner. Tri-State understands that they must get environmental and cultural assessments of the subject areas.

Working with Kinder Morgan on a new commercial Right-of-Way. Negotiations of consent consideration for trust land and allotted buy-back land is in process. This is a new project and no agreement negotiations have taken place.

FRF/ARPA Program Projects

Project Contact: Rowena Cheromiah,
rcheromiah@navajo-nsn.gov

The FRF-ARPA Minerals Program reviewed and mapped forty (40) projects and computed considerations, including Terms & Conditions for each ROW or TAA project.

- 1) EOR: 020348, NTUA TAA Cassandra

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

- Begay, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 6,576.48 ft. near Many Farms Chapter
- 2) EOR: 020227, NTUA TAA Willie and Leonard Jones, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 10,009.69 ft. near Standing Rock Chapter,
 - 3) EOR: 020425, NTUA TAA Cornfields Chapter House, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 6,233.15 ft. near Standing Rock Chapter
 - 4) EOR: 019698, NTUA TAA Austin Sam, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 600 ft. near Houck Chapter,
 - 5) EOR: 020494, NTUA TAA Clack & Yazzie, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 6,063.96 ft. near Wide Ruins Chapter,
 - 6) EOR: 020290, DW Tower Raplee Ridge, Cellular Tower, .9 ac. near Dennehotso Chapter, EOR: 020736, TAA Water Line and Tank Site Beacon Bisti N9 Project.
 - 7) EOR: 020789, AZDPS Tower Piney Hill, Cellular Tower, .3 ac. near Kinlichee Chapter,
 - 8) EOR: 020799, NTUA TAA Clyde Gamble, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 5,930.05 ft. near Chilchinbeto Chapter,
 - 9) EOR: 020763, Cellular One Tower Little Water, Cellular Tower, .06 ac. near Kinlichee Chapter,
 - 10) EOR: 020762, AZDPS Tower Navajo Mountain, Cellular Tower, .3 ac. near Navajo Mountain Chapter,
 - 11) EOR: 020798, SBI Tower Pine Springs, Cellular Tower, .06 ac. near Pine Springs Chapter,
 - 12) EOR: 020766, AZDPS Tower Black Mesa, Cellular Tower, .373 ac. near Kayenta Chapter,
 - 13) EOR: 020812, Cellular One Tower Window Rock Veterans Park, Cellular Tower, .06 ac. Near St. Michaels Chapter,
 - 14) EOR: 020797, SBI Tower San Juan West, Cellular Tower, .3 ac. Near Nenahnezad Chapter,
 - 15) EOR: 020828, NTUA TAA Cudi to TeecNosPos, Distribution Line/Fiber Optic Cable, 124,917.51ft. near Chilchinbeto Chapter,.
 - 16) EOR: 020764, AZDPS Tower Roberts Ranch, Cellular Tower, .07 ac. near Nahat'a'dzil Chapter,.
 - 17) EOR: 020767, AZDPS Tower Roof Butte Red Valley, Cellular Tower, .164 ac. near Lukachukai Chapter.
 - 18) EOR: 020153, AZDPS Tower Turning Hill, Cellular Tower, .3 ac. near Klagetoh Chapter.
 - 19) EOR: 020765, AZDPS Boundary Butte Mexican Water, Cellular Tower, .3 ac. near Mexican Water Chapter.
 - 20) EOR: 21072/13553, Dine College Tsaile, AZ Lease. Land Lease for campus tract roughly 1,180 ac. in Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter, Apache County, Arizona
 - 21) EOR_020828, TAA, NTUA, Cudei/Gadii'ahi /To'koi, NM to TeecNosPos/T'iis Názbád, AZ. The project consists of a Distribution Line ROW easement. The distance of the Distribution Line with Fiber Optics Cables is roughly 86.031 ac. This project is spanning San Juan County, NM to Apache County, AZ.
 - 22) EOR_21144, TAA, NTUA, Coalmine, AZ. The project consists of a Distribution Line ROW easement. The distance of the Distribution Line with Fiber Optics Cables is roughly 2,968 Rods in length. The project is located within the Coalmine/Leejin Haageed Chapter, Navajo County, AZ.
 - 23) EOR_20614, TAA, NTUA, Sweetwater,

AZ. The project consists of a Distribution Line ROW easement. The distance of the Distribution Line with Fiber Optics Cables is roughly 2,289 Rods in length. The project is located within the Sweetwater/Tó Łikan Chapter, Apache County, AZ.

- 24) EOR_20509, TAA, NTUA, Window Rock, AZ. The project consists of a Distribution Line ROW easement. The distance of the Distribution Line with Fiber Optics Cables is roughly 162 Rods in length. The project is located within the St. Michaels/Ts'ithootso Chapter, Apache County, AZ.
- 25) EOR_20612, TAA, NTUA, Low Mountain, AZ. The project consists of a Distribution Line ROW easement. The distance of the Distribution Line with Fiber Optics Cables is roughly 370 Rods in length. The project is located within the Low Mountain/Lone Mesa/Ta' Sahdi' Da' Askani' Chapter, Navajo County, AZ.
- 26) EOR_20805, TAA, USPHS, Waterline Extension, NA18W41, Rough Rock, AZ. The project consists of a Waterline Extension ROW easement. The distance of the Waterline Extension is roughly 30.49 ac. in length. The project is located within the Rough Rock/Tséch ízhí

- 1 Phase Two Bond Release field inspection (Kayenta Mine)
- 1 Termination of Jurisdiction (TOJ) field inspection (Navajo Mine)
- 1 Phase Three Bond Release field inspection (Navajo Mine)

In total there were 45 Inspections for the year.

FRF-ARPA Minerals Projects

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The FRF-ARPA Minerals Program reviewed and mapped forty-one (41) projects and computed considerations, including Terms & Conditions for each ROW or TAA project. The FRF-Minerals Department has recently filled all vacant positions. The last vacancy will be filled on October 23, 2023. Policies and procedures have been implemented to complete the ROW/TAA calculations in a timely manner. This has kept calculations consistent and accurate. As a 2-tier system, our department has implemented multiple reviewers to validate the accuracy of each ROW/TAA.

Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement Program Inspections

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

Completed all assigned Production Inspections for FY23. All inspections were entered into the Automated Fluid Minerals Support System and closed out for the year. We completed inspections on 60 Idle wells that have not been in operation for several years. We notified the Lease Operators to place the wells back into production or to proceed with plug and abandonment (P&A). We also witnessed 2 drillings and 9 Plug and Abandonments.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mine Reclamation Inspections

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The Surface Mining Program performed:

- 13 complete inspections
- 32 partial inspections
- 1 Phase One Bond Release field inspection (Kayenta Mine)

GOALS

Obtain Primacy for Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations

The Primacy Legislation 0186-022 was approved by the 24th Navajo Council during a Special Session on December 19, 2022. The voting resulted in 17 in-favor and 1 opposed. President Nez on January 6, 2023 signed the Primacy Legislation (0186-022) Resolution CD-59-22 into law that was approved during the 24th Navajo Nation Council Special Session.

Going forward, following items needs to be completed for primacy before the final package is submitted to Department of Interior (DOI) for review: 1) Complete review of SMP-Regulations by DOI and NN-DOJ, 2) Review of Part 864-which is administrative and Judicial review of the SMP Regulation for the purpose of hearing and Appeals by OSMRE's Solicitor, and 3) MOA between NN and OSMRE needs to be reviewed and agreed upon for criminal enforcement.

The final Product is then submitted to the Secretary, Department of Interior for review and approval. Navajo Nation Goal: Obtain Primacy.

Goal Target Date: Jan-25

Kayenta Mine Residents Support Initiative

Complete resident outreach initiative to ensure residents of the Kayenta Mine are aware of reclamation status and processes in place. Complete outreach initiative to ensure the Navajo Nation is not being misinformed by grass-roots organizations of the Kayenta Mine resident's complaints and concerns. The Navajo Nation

will be fully informed as will the Kayenta mine communities to ensure a smooth transition of assets and land back to the Navajo Nation.

Goal Target Date: May-24

Minerals Agreements Initiative

Negotiate and finalize Helium Operating Agreement with the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company. Negotiate and finalize a Professional Services Operating Agreement with Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company for the development and operation of the Z-well. Re-engage with minerals energy companies to continue their negotiations of oil and gas agreements on Navajo.

Goal Target Date: Dec-24

Division of Public Safety

Division of Public Safety Administration

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Meeting with Ella Mae family ref: MMI, Window Rock, AZ.
- Central Agency Council meeting, Pinon, AZ. & Eastern Agency Parade, Crownpoint, AZ
- Victim Advocate Training, Flagstaff, AZ.
- Cody Jesus rodeo events, Window Rock, AZ.
- Budget preparations conducted & committee presentations, Window Rock, AZ.

- Meeting with Charles family ref: MMI, Window Rock, AZ.
- DEM preparation & response to Alamo, NM community ref: power outage
- Central Agency parade, Chinle, AZ.
- Navajo Nation fair & parade, Window Rock, AZ.
- Western Agency Council (Coalmine, AZ.) & Northern Agency council (Shiprock, NM) meetings
- Executive Protection restructuring with OPVP, Window Rock, AZ.
- Droning class, Window Rock, AZ.

PROJECTS

- Relocating N.D.P.S. department & staffing to better facilities. Reviewing options for Fire dept.
- Allocating new service vehicles for law enforcement & emergency medical services.
- Increasing payrates & reviewing staff classifications. Reviewing 638 contracts.
- Implementing new temporary facilities for Department of Corrections, Window Rock, AZ.

Navajo Department of Criminal Investigations

The Navajo Department of Criminal Investigation (NDCI) is a department under the Navajo Division of Public Safety (NDPS). NDCI supports NDPS' mission through P.L. 93-638 contract statement of work and performs investigations of suspected violations of the criminal laws of the United States which occur within the Navajo Nation as

authorized by the United States Attorney (25 CFR § 12.23). NDCI also continues to perform District Coroner and Deputy Coroner services for the Navajo Nation certifying cause and manner of deaths occurring outside of the hospitals on the Navajo Nation and forwarding death certificates to the respective state vital statistics (AZ, NM, and UT).

NDCI responded to the need for a Missing Persons Unit and collaborated with the Resident Agencies (RA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) working Indian Country Crimes (ICC) on the Navajo Nation. In an immediate large scale missing persons response, NDCI notifies the FBI for immediate resources. Resources such as mobilizing Special Agents to physically track down leads outside the Navajo Nation in distant cities and other states, tracking cellular phones, street camera data and social networks, and entering the missing person into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), allowing for the missing person data to be available to every criminal justice agency nationwide.

In missing children's cases NDCI in collaboration with the FBI gather information as quickly as possible to determine if an AMBER alert is warranted and where circumstances require an AMBER alert it is initiated through the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management (DEM).

In pending missing persons cases, NDCI has 1 office at each 7 police districts, with 1 Criminal Investigator (CI) designated as points of contact per district for pending missing person cases. The designated CI is tasked to collect DNA samples from blood relatives of the missing person, dental and medical records of the missing person, fingerprint classifications of the missing person, etc. and input the identifiers into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the Next

Generation Identification (NGI), and National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). NamUs is a national clearinghouse and resource center for missing unidentified, and unclaimed person cases and a repository for positive identifying samples collected on missing individuals including those from the Navajo Nation, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

There are over 35 missing persons from the Navajo Nation that have been entered into the NamUs program, 22 of those missing individuals entered from the Navajo Nation have been found, since.

NDCI has also created a proposal for a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Unit. The proposal includes a Plan of Operation, Standards and Requirements, Standard Operating Procedures, Performance Criteria, a Startup Budget, a Recurring Budget, position PCQs, and an Organizational Chart. NOCI proposed the creation of 14 MMIP investigator positions and a Startup cost of \$4,367,420 and a recurring cost of \$2,262,501. This proposal remains unaddressed however, NDCI was awarded \$500,000 to go toward its missing person initiative. NDCI budgeted the \$500,000 to be utilized by the current NDCi points of contact for missing person case investigations.

NDCI MMIP Investigators deployed to the Phoenix valley in support of the Navajo Nation's Operation Rainbow Bridge (ORB) at the end of the 3'd Quarter (6/22/2023 - 6/25/2023) and in the 4th quarter (7/9/2023 - 7/17/2023) under its own Law Enforcement Operations Order (Log Number: 4-23-11787) and conducted a fact-finding mission to determine what may or may not have occurred in the process of moving over 500 Navajo members from the Navajo Nation down into the Phoenix valley. NDCI opened 34 cases on Navajo members who were reported to have been

displaced from sober living homes or residential facilities being shut down due to fraud allegations by the State of Arizona. The Investigations are continuing.

(Further NNDPS report information provided in supplements; available on request from programs)

Division of Social Services

Division of Social Services Administration

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July

This year's NDSS' Annual Social Work and Human Services Symposium wheld at the High-Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, Arizona was a total success. "Yideesk'a ądi Nitsáhákees niha' áłchíní ba," Thinking for the Future of our Children was the theme. The annual symposium is a division-wide event held for NDSS team members. The daily pressure on our staff to serve our most vulnerable populations creates stress and anxiety during the day. Being aware of these types of signs, the Symposium was designed for all division staff to learn, network, celebrate, and release stress. The Symposium was a great opportunity for the NDSS staff to gain awareness and tools to improve their mental and physical well-being.

The Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Their Families (NTCCF) is working with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the land permit for a modular building to be placed within the Crownpoint community. NTCCF has complete support from BIA to utilize land in the community that belongs to the government for its services. The purpose of the land use is to place an NTCCF office at the Crownpoint Navajo Shopping Plaza, Inc. and the healing grounds is for the NTCCF program to offer Navajo cultural and traditional services, i.e., a sweat lodge purification and healing area. The program is also purchasing a building/office for the Crownpoint office which has been in the process for over 10 years. Crownpoint NTCCF has a high case load of over 75 clients per year which does not including their families; it is estimated case load with families might be around 300 individuals served a year.

Northern TREE House: In late July 2023, NDSS met with the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) and has successfully transferred the NHA Unit and land to the Navajo Nation for purposes of continuing the Northern TREE House, a domestic violence shelter, located in Shiprock.

The DSR implemented an On-Line Portal which allows Customers to submit their Monthly Change Report (MCR), using their Smart Phones, tablets or computers with internet access. DSR Customers are required to submit an MCR each month to report changes, if any, in their circumstances which may affect their eligibility and/or monthly assistance payment amount. A Benefit Group's monthly assistance payment cannot be processed until a completed MCR is submitted and their continued eligibility is determined.

DFS has finalized inter-agency/office jurisdictions between the Shiprock, Crownpoint,

and Gallup DFS offices. Re-defining the boundary lines allows DFS to determine which office is responsible for various reports of suspected child abuse occurring in Eastern Navajo. This re-defining of jurisdictions also aligns with Navajo Judicial Branch and Navajo law enforcement office boundary lines also.

August

DFS provided services to 4,246 clients, to date (2178 children, 1607 adults, and 461 elders) including 905 reports of abuse/neglect involving children and elders. Of the 287 investigations conducted, 122 were re-occurring cases while 90 involved physical abuse, 190 involving neglect, and 49 involving sexual abuse. Of the 287 investigations, 124 children were removed from their homes temporarily, resulting in 49 total petitions to the Court for Dependency Action. For Eastern Agency services, DFS served 108 children and 100 adults through child welfare cases, 3 elders via APS, and 20 families from Victim/Witness Advocacy Services.

The NICWAP has a total of 357 active ICWA cases involving 684 children. There are open child custody proceedings in 26 states. Arizona: 174 cases involving 334 children. New Mexico: 62 cases involving 122 children. Utah: 30 cases involving 70 children.

The DCCD released the ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grant Application, which can be found on the NDSS website at www.nndss.org. The grant funding is for childcare centers and independent childcare providers who serve Navajo children. The funds will be used for:

- Personnel and Benefit Cost
- Lease Rental Cost
- Facility Maintenance

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- Personal Protective Equipment
- Training and Professional Development
- Update Equipment in Response to COVID-19
- Mental Health Support for Children and Employees

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023: Through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), two (2) Navajo Nation projects were funded with the Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending, including the Tó Naneesdiz Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter for \$4,172,000.00 and the Shiprock Domestic Violence Shelter for \$3 million. The Navajo Utah Health System will construct a new facility in Shiprock and the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation will construct a new facility in Tuba City, for which it started the land acquisition and procurement process.

September

September 2, Inter-Faith Outreach. With the intent of uniting and to aid in healing our Nation, NDSS spearheaded collaborative efforts to combat social ills that are disrupting the mental and social well-being of our Diné people such as suicide, violence, adverse childhood experiences and substance addiction.. The Inter-Faith effort began with coordinating with churches across the Navajo Nation at the Annual Ranch Camp Meeting. Opportunities for collaborative efforts with churches across the Navajo Nation, with our Diné medicine people, and the Native American Church (NAC) will continue to be sought, established, and strengthened.

September 9, Annual Tri-State Intergovernmental Agreement Meeting with the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services and States of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Each state given the opportunity to provide updates and address goals

& initiatives that support work for our Navajo children and families.

September 11, Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program Roll out in Phoenix, Arizona. The HAF Program grant in an amount of \$55,420,097.00. Subrecipient Agreement with the Native Community Capital of Phoenix, AZ established to implement the HAF program to urban Navajos in Arizona and New Mexico first; followed by the states of Utah and Colorado in mid-2024. The Navajo HAF Project is set up to fund five eligible activities for the next 42-months to include: 1) Monthly Mortgage Payment Assistance for those who are delinquent in payments or at risk of foreclosure due to a loss of household income, 2) Mortgage Reinstatement Assistance for those who are in active forbearance, delinquency, or default status and at risk of losing their home. 3) Mortgage Principal Reduction Assistance for those who find the Fair Market Value of their home is less than the price at which the homeowner purchased the home and may result in a financial loss, 4) Home Repair Assistance (loan) for those who require significant home repairs, and 5) Clear title assistance.

September 15, Intergovernmental Agreement was fully executed and signed by both Navajo Nation for Developmental Disability Services and State DES/DDD. This is a 5-year IGA, ending on September 30th, 2028; contract number DI23-002402. The IGA allows for continuation of the Navajo Developmental Disabilities Program to provide quality case management services for individuals with cognitive disabilities, autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and down syndrome.

PROJECTS

In collaboration with the Division of Human Resources, NDSS continues to co-lead the revision

of the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual. A task group was established that includes representatives from various Executive and Legislative divisions, departments, programs, and offices. As a result, the Health, Education and Human Services Committee passed Legislation 0083-23 on April 26, 2023, resulting in Resolution HEHSCAP-04-23, which amended Section IV.K.5 of the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual. Essentially, it allows the Navajo Nation to hire employees on a provisional basis while background checks are pending, except for those providing childcare or providing for the health, safety, and welfare of a child, particularly where responsibility involves direct repetitive contact with a child or unsupervised access to children.

Operation Rainbow Bridge (ORB): In May 2023, the Navajo Nation activated an Incident Command Headquarters for the Operation Rainbow Bridge in Phoenix. This was in response to the enforcement actions against fraudulent sober living homes and predatory rehabilitation facilities related to the ACHCCCS billing scheme. This included field teams and technical teams to assist with transitioning displaced Navajo members to legitimate service providers or to assist with transportation back to the Navajo Nation from Phoenix. To date, approximately 175 relatives have returned home to the Nation and the mobile unit located 10 Navajo relatives from the missing person list. A support phone line (1-855-HELPORB); an ORB Facebook, ORB downloadable app, and ORB website. The NDSS continues to provide support to ORB public relations, tribal collaboration with Arizona tribes, IT support, administrative support, basic needs, transportation, and case management for individuals impacted by fraudulent sober living facilities.

The Navajo Division of Social Services (NDSS) and Casey Family Programs are working

together on improving services to our Navajo youth and families in the areas of prevention, permanency, safety, and wellbeing. The gathering of information will be from focus groups input. These focus groups will consist of key participants such as Navajo social workers, supervisors, our community stakeholders such as youth, elders, court personnel & law enforcement, foster parents, birth parents, and our relative caregivers.

NDSS will continue to collaborate with other NN Divisions in the planning of a Navajo Nation Service Office in the Phoenix metro area. It has been estimated that there are approximately 80,000 Navajo families the reside in this area.

Department for Self Reliance

PROJECTS

Strategic Planning

Project Contact: Antoinette Miller, Acting Department Manager, antoinette.miller@nntanf.org

The DSR Strategic Planning Initiative is to develop Goals and Objectives for the next Tribal Family Assistance Plan (TFAP), which will be for the period of October 01, 2024 to September 30, 2027. The next TFAP must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by June 30, 2024.

Chinle Office

Project Contact: Antoinette Miller, Acting

Department Manager, antoinette.miller@nntanf.org

Due to the landlord not renewing our lease for the DSR Chinle Office, the staff had to vacate the building by September 30, 2023. As a result, the majority of the DSR Chinle staff are currently either teleworking or working at other office locations. DSR is currently searching for another available office location and exploring other options. The goal is to re-establish an office in the Central Navajo region by early 2024.

Southwest Region Office, Tribal Family Assistance Plan

Project Contact: Antoinette Miller, Acting Department Manager, Anthony Dineyazhe, antoinette.miller@nntanf.org, anthony.dineyazhe@nntanf.org

The DSR Greasewood sub-office is in the process of being relocated to Dilkon, Arizona. A lease agreement with the Navajo Christian Foundation was drafted and is currently going through the formal review process. Once the lease is approved and the office is ready for occupation, the DSR Greasewood Sub-office will be relocated to that site. The office is being relocated to make it more convenient for Customers residing in the southwestern part of the Navajo Nation to access services and resources. The DSR must submit a Tribal Family Assistance Plan (TFAP) every three years in order to continue receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. The current TFAP will end on September 30, 2023. The TFAP describes how the DSR plans to operate its Tribal TANF program, including eligibility criteria, service area and types of assistance and services to be provided. Work sessions will be conducted to develop the next TFAP, which will be for the period of October 01, 2024 to September 30, 2027. The next TFAP must be submitted to the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by June 30, 2024. Upon approval, the Navajo Nation will receive \$31,174,026 annually for the three-year period.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assistance and Services Provided

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

During the Fourth Quarter, DSR provided assistance and services to approximately 1900 families each month, which are comprised of approximately 1500 adults and 4100 children.

Subsidized Youth Employment

Accomplishment Date: 30-Sep-23

The DSR Education and Career Services placed 18 youth in Subsidized Youth Employment at Basha's during the summer. A total of nine (9) high school students will remain employed at Basha's while attending school (two from Tuba City area, three from Crownpoint area, one from Chinle area, two from Kayenta area, and one from Pinon area).

Extended Training, Quarterly Meeting with ADES, Tribal Assistance System Conference, Outreach, Incentives and Achievement Awards

Accomplishment Date: September 30, 2023, August 3, 2023, September 1, 2023, September 30, 2023, September 30, 2023

The DSR Education and Career Services recruited and placed twelve (12) Customers in the

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Phlebotomy Technician and Pharmacy Technician extended training programs at San Juan College. Currently, six (6) Customers are enrolled in The Phlebotomy Technician program which will start on October 16, 2023, and run through March 6, 2024. Four (4) Customers are enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician program which began on August 21, 2023.,DSR leadership staff attended the Quarterly Coordination Meeting with the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The purpose of the meeting is to share information and discuss issues encountered between our departments. The main topic of discussion was improving collaboration between our departments so information necessary for eligibility and case management is exchanged timely.,On August 28 to September 1, 2023, five (5) DSR staff attended the 2023 Eaglesun Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The conference provided an opportunity for the DSR staff to network with other Tribal TANF programs and receive information regarding enhancements to the the Tribal Assistance System (TAS). TAS is the automated case management system utilized by DSR and most of the Tribal TANF Programs. In addition, the DSR TAS Administrator presented a breakout session entitled "What a TAS Administrator Does.",The DSR field offices set up booths at the Eastern Navajo Fair (July 21 - 23), Central Navajo Fair (August 24 - 26), Navajo Nation Fair (September 7 - 9) and the Northern Navajo Fair (October 5 - 7) to disseminate information regarding the assistance and services provided by the DSR. In addition, the DSR Crownpoint Office entered a float in the Eastern Navajo Fair parade and placed second in the Community Resource category.,During the Fourth Quarter, the following were provided:

TYPE NUMBER EXPENDED

- High Academic Achievement – Child 97 \$26,350

- High Academic Achievement – Adult 14 6,000
- Perfect Attendance 17 3,400
- Graduation – Minor Child 3 600
- Graduation – Adult 2 700
- Academic Improvement 40 5,400
- Employment Achievement 8 1,500
- Youth Training Incentive 87 17,400
- TOTAL: 268 \$61,350

GOALS

TRIBAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN

Develop the first draft of the next DSR Tribal Family Assistance Plan (TFAP), which will be for the period of October 01, 2024 to September 30, 2027. The draft will be utilized for the Public Comment Period.

Goal Target Date: 17-Nov-23

TFAP Public Comment Period

Pursuant to the Tribal TANF Regulations (45CFR286), Tribal TANF Programs must provide a 45-day Public Comment Period on the Tribal Family Assistance Plan. Each DSR field office will conduct Public Hearings in their service area and obtain input from key stakeholders during the 45-day period, which will begin on December 4, 2023 and end on January 19, 2024. The comments received will be compiled and reviewed by the work group for consideration for inclusion in the TFAP.

Goal Target Date: 19-Jan-24

School Clothing and Supplies,Relocation of Offices

Process and issue School Clothing and School Supplies incentive payments to school-aged children who are members of a DSR benefit group. Each eligible child will receive \$250.00.,Relocate the Greasewood office to Dilkon. The relocation will provide Customer with increased access to resources.

Secure an office in the Central Navajo area, preferably in Chinle..

Goal Target Date: December 29, 2023,December 29, 2023

Department of Child Care and Development

PROJECTS

HVAC Services

Project Contact: Cyrus Davis, Cyrus.Davis@nndss.org

On July 3, 2023, Department of Child Care and Development received the Notice to Proceed for the HVAC Services for all twenty-eight child care centers/buildings. It is a 2 year contract to include preventive maintenance until September 30, 2025. The Department of Child Care and Development had been working with a vendor to complete a site condition assessment report for all the twenty-eight child care centers and used the report to begin the HVAC . The expected outcome is the DCCD child care centers will have

improved heating and cooling systems so the children will be comfortable setting.

Removal and Installation of Fire Alarm Systems

Project Contact: Cyrus Davis, Cyrus.Davis@nndss.org

On August 2, 2023, the Department of Child Care and Development conducted a bid opening for the removal and installation of fire alarm systems for all 28 child care centers. We are waiting for the Notice to Proceed to begin the project. The Department of Child Care and Development had been working with a vendor to complete a site condition assessment report for all the twenty-eight child care centers and used the report to begin the fire alarm system project. The expected outcome is for all twenty-eight child care centers to be fully equipped of modern fire alarm systems to protect the children and the building asset.

Child care centers site condition assessment

Project Contact: Cyrus Davis, Cyrus.Davis@nndss.org

On August 24, 2023, the Department of Child Care and Development received the Final Site Condition Assessment Report from Dyron Murphy Architects for all 28 child care centers. The assessment report is very detailed for each child care center with the condition of the building to include listing the areas of needed improvement and the estimated cost of the repair. The assessment report will be used to request for major construction funds from our external funding source, including additional minor construction funds. The expected outcome is to have modern child care centers so our

children can spend quality time and learn new ideas while being in a safe environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On-site assessment for TAS implementation

Accomplishment Date: 9/15/23

An assessment of Child Care Centers for implementation of the Tribal Assistance System (TAS) was completed by DCCD Department Manager III and Sr. Programs & Projects Specialist. The in-person site visit assessments at the Northern and Western regions, reveals that computer hardware is available and complete, at a majority of DCCD centers and offices. Once the initial TAS training has been completed for DCCD direct service staff by Eaglesun Inc., the child care module will be utilized to automate payments, notices, and timesheets for children enrolled at Navajo child care centers. The electronic case management system TAS will be instrumental in streamlining childcare services.

DCCD Staff Development

Accomplishment Date: 9/7/23

Quarterly Staff Meeting was held on August 4, 2023, at McGaffy State Park, Fort Wingate, New Mexico, was a success in providing four training session being held outdoors. Approximately 110 staff were in attendance. The training topics included Employee Physical Wellbeing- Self Care; Children's capacity to grow from adversity; The Benefits of Outdoor Learning Through Play; and Gardening with Kids.

Behavior Bootcamp was conducted on September

6-7, 2023 at the Gallup Hilton Garden Inn, and each of the 15 participants received information of how self-care and mental health, peer support and community, and supportive professional relationships; and planning, teamwork, and maintenance in a child care setting were important training information in using techniques to improve oneself. There are many components used and personal awareness to communicate effectively were integrated into the training topics.

Statement of Work

Accomplishment Date: 9/10/23

On September 10, 2023, the Planner Estimator completed and submitted the Statement of Work for the installation of New Aluminum Ramps, Stairs, and Porch Systems for the Department of Child Care and Development twenty-eight modular child care buildings. New non-slip aluminum ramps, stairs, and porch system will be an upgrade and will keep all buildings up to code. Also, on September 25, 2023, the Statement of Work was completed and submitted for installation of new age-appropriate playground equipment, playground components, exercise equipment, awning structures, covered parking, basketball courts, and small amphitheater style seating.

GOALS

Update and submit DCCD Tribal Plan

DCCD has a goal of submitting a completed and fully compliant Tribal Plan for the next three-year period (2024 – 2026). DCCD currently has a Tribal Plan that is 'provisionally approved' and

deemed as not fully compliant with 45 C.F.R. Part 98 requirements. DCCD plans to submit a fully compliant Tribal Plan, in order to continue to receive full Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grants for the next three years. DCCD's amended Tribal Plan is currently in review with Navajo Department of Justice (DOJ), due to missing definitions, information and explanations as deemed necessary. Upon DOJ's final review of the Tribal Plan, DCCD will submit it to Office of Child Care (OCC).

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Update and submit DCCD Casework Policies

DCCD has a goal of updating and submitting DCCD Casework Policies to DOJ for review. The last authorized DCCD casework policies were approved and considered effective in 1996. Since then, CCDF regulations have been updated in 2014 and 2017 and the Casework Policies remained stagnant. In order to ensure equitable child care services across the Navajo Nation, the Casework Policies will be updated and submitted to DOJ for review. Upon final DOJ review, DCCD will submit the reviewed Casework Policies to the Navajo Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) for consideration and approval. Thereby, aligning DCCD policies with CCDF regulations.

Goal Target Date: 12/30/23

Update and submit DCCD Disaster Plan

DCCD has a goal of submitting a completed DCCD Emergency Disaster Plan for the 164-reivew process. DCCD does not currently have policy related to an emergency or disaster for the

tribally owned child care centers or CCDF-funded independent providers. According to 45 C.F.R. Part 98 requirements, last updated in 2017, CCDF funded programs must require that providers and centers have a disaster plan in place to be considered fully compliant. Currently, the DCCD Disaster Plan is under DOJ review. Once reviewed, the document will go before the HEHS committee for consideration. Once approved, the document will be implemented at each child care region.

Goal Target Date: 11/30/23

Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families

PROJECTS

Purchase of an office modular building

Project Contact: Anthony Begay, anthony.begay@nndss.org

The NTCCF Crownpoint office is currently at the Navajo Shopping Center Inc. Suite 2 and need to move out by the end of 2024. The purchase of an NTCCF office in Crownpoint has been in the process for at least 10 years. There are funds that became available recently and currently attempting to meet with OMB and OCC to revisit the actual amount pending for the purchase of the modular building. Office of Executive Director are involved and established Community Development to participate and currently have bided for Bitco to complete our construction.

2. Tribal Assistance System (TAS)

Project Contact: Anthony Begay, anthony.begay@nndss.org

The Tribal Assistance System (TAS) is currently the DSS hardware and software system to help with the case management system of our clients or caseload.

Applying for reimbursement of services with the AHCCCS.

Project Contact: Anthony Begay, anthony.begay@nndss.org

The NTCCF Clinical Family Therapist is taking the lead for completing our application. The clinical staff are acquiring their National Provider Numbers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5% Bonus

Accomplishment Date: 9/29/23

NTCCF staff were approved for a 5% bonus as an appreciation for their dedication to working during the pandemic and assisting with the Operation Rainbow Bridge. The program is processing necessary documents for payment to staff.

Permit for land use from BIA

Accomplishment Date: 9/29/23

Program has complete support from BIA to utilize land in the community that belongs to the government for NTCCF services. The program has

added a healing ground for sweatlodge or other purpose for client services.

Hiring of NTCCF vacant positions

Accomplishment Date: 9/29/23

A temporary hire of the Accounts Maintenance Specialist came on board. Applications of treatment coordinators are pending review and assessments.

GOALS

Refocus clinical staff to direct practice

Goal completed for direct staff refocusing on client caseloads. Program Manager and the Community Involvement Specialist are still on assignment with ORB including some staff still wanting to assist with ORB.

Goal Target Date: 9/29/23

Hire vacant positions for the program

Accounts Maintenance Specialist is hired, and some applications are pending assessments and interviews.

Goal Target Date: 9/29/23

Find land for Shiprock NTCCF office

Program to work on finding land in the Shiprock community for a modular building.

Goal Target Date: End of 2023

Navajo Gaming Regulatory Office

Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office

PROJECTS

Violation Reporting System

Project Contact: Michele T. Jones, michelejones@navajo-nsn.gov

Revisions to the violation reporting protocols of the NNGRO. Since June 2023 I have been discussing with the NNGRO Managers on revamping the violation reporting system to be more precise and in line with violations of Tribal Gaming Regulations, applicable Tribal-State Gaming compacts and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act per the Navajo Nation Gaming Ordinance (5 N.N.C. subsection 2070). Currently violations of the Casino Operations policies and procedures are being reported to NNGRO, however, these policy and procedures do not violate Regulations, IGRA or State Compacts, therefore cannot be reported as violations. I am working to create a new reporting format and process for issuing violations.

Tribal Gaming Regulations Revisions

Project Contact: Michele T. Jones, michelejones@navajo-nsn.gov

I continue to work on revising and updating the Tribal Gaming Regulations. Many of the NNGRO Department Managers have also been working on sections relevant to their departments and making improvements as well as revisions. This has been an ongoing project since 2022.

Community Bingo and Raffles Regulations Development

Project Contact: Michele T. Jones, michelejones@navajo-nsn.gov

We have started to bring public awareness to the regulations involving individually owned bingo and raffle operations on the Navajo Nation. We are still in the process of writing these regulations. We will be making a notice that we will begin regulating these operations in 2025.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Indian Gaming Commission 2nd Site Visit 2023

Accomplishment Date: 18-Sep-23

On August 29 and 30, 2023 the National Indian Gaming Commission conducted a site visit to the Northern Edge Casino, Flowing Water Casino, Twin Arrows Casino and the Navajo Blue Travel Plaza gaming floor. A surveillance review was conducted at the Flowing Water Casino and no major findings were noted, however, there was one minor issue that was corrected by the end of

day and evidence of the correction was submitted to the NIGC. On September 18, 2023 a letter was received noting that the site visit and surveillance review had no findings.

Arizona Department of Gaming Tribal Contributions Review

Accomplishment Date: 28-Sep-23

The Arizona Department of Gaming conducted a Tribal Contributions Review at the Twin Arrows Casino on September 27 and 28, 2023. I attended the entrance conference before they began their review. They indicated this review was to ensure accurate reporting and submission of funds based on the Arizona compact for first quarter of 2023. An exit conference was conducted on September 28, 2023 and no finding or incidents of non-compliance were noted, therefore, they were confident there was no issues or concerns.

Title 5 Tribal Regulations Revisions

Accomplishment Date: 5-Aug-23

Revisions to the Title V of the Navajo Nation Tribal Gaming Regulations was completed and submitted to the Department of Justice for review on August 5, 2023. Review and legal sufficient notice was received and public notice will be completed through newspaper advertisement and memorandum notification to departments.

GOALS

Improving internal processes

To improve and create all internal processes and procedures for each department under the NNGRO. All employees will be able to reference

and read processes and procedures related to their job duties.

Goal Target Date: 30-Jun-24

Revamping of NNGRO

We will be initiating an organizational restructuring that will include abolishing several positions, upgrading other positions and demoting several positions. The NNGRO has changed since its inception in 2006 and has outgrown its current structure. With many changes occurring such revisions of the Arizona Gaming compact and stabilization of each Navajo Casino which have all been in operation for more than 5 years, certain positions are no longer needed, however, the knowledge and skills of these positions can be utilized in other classified positions. This will also be more beneficial in another department. We are looking to improve the monitoring and compliance of the NNGRO.

Goal Target Date: 30-Sep-24

NNGRO Training Plan

We will develop a NNGRO training plan to outline our training program for each department and positions to build, enhance and elevate the skill and knowledge level of all employees of the Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office.

Goal Target Date: 30-Jun-23

Division of Transportation

Division of Transportation Administration

PROJECTS

Chinle Airport Reconstruction

Project Contact: Jonah Begay, jbegay@navajodot.org

The Chinle Airport reconstruction project is to reconstruct the entire runway and upgrade the electrical system including lighting and navigation system.

Expected outcome: new runway with new electrical and lighting for the airport runway.

N7054 2&4 Pinedale NM

Project Contact: Darryl Bradley, dbradley@navajodot.org

Project Description

Construct 2.8 miles of grading, subgrade, placement of aggregate base course and pavement, installation of drainage structures, wire-enclosed riprap protection, gabion retaining wall, cattleguards, fencing, waterline and electric line relocations, and miscellaneous construction. Project includes utility coordination with Navajo

Tribal Utility Authority and Continental Divide Electric Cooperative.

Project Status

Arrow Indian Contractors, Inc. (AIC) is 34% complete and has completed clearing and grubbing, rock scaling and excavation, and cattleguard installations. AIC continues to work on roadway excavation and embankment, culvert installations, hauling water, temporary traffic control, and installation/maintenance of wattles. CA2 Testing is performing density and moisture tests on embankment, culvert backfill, and cattleguard installation work. Wilson & Company, Inc. is providing construction management services during construction.

Project Overview

- Route: N7054
- Chapter: Pinedale
- County: McKinley
- Agency: Eastern

Construction Fund Source: FHWA Tribal Transportation Program Funds (\$5,789,627) & New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund (\$1,925,000)

- Construction Amount: \$7,714,627
- Contractor: Arrow Indian Contractors, Inc.
- NDOT Project Manager: Darryl Bradley

Notice of funding opportunity (NOFO)

Project Contact: LeAnne M. Roy, MCIS, lroy@navajodot.org

The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant application was successfully submitted on September 28, 2023

by Navajo DOT and Dibble Corp. The grant is for capital construction funding for the Red Lake #18 Street Improvements project. This was a team effort from Navajo DOT, Dibble, Red Lake Chapter and Honorable Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez. The amount of funding is \$185 Million (\$50M for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) Planning funds, \$135M for the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Funds).

The RCN grant will provide funds for planning activities to support future construction projects and allow for innovative community planning to address localized transportation challenges. Projects may address:

Planning to restore community connectivity

Community/public engagement

Assessing environmental impacts from transportation in underserved communities (i.e., air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, extreme heat hotspots, gaps in tree canopy coverage, or flood-prone transportation infrastructure)

Developing local anti-displacement policies and community benefit agreements

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chinle Airport

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

- a. Secured \$8.1 M – FAA Airport Capital Improvement Program
- b. Secured \$211, 000 - FAA Airport Capital Improvement Program
- c. Coordinated with Medivac Guardian Angel to purchase AWOS

- d. The maintenance personnel mowed the invasive weeds, checked the perimeter, and performed minor pavement preservation. The ongoing maintenance activities are both preventative and routine. The activities are also performed a need basis.

Tuba City Airport

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

- a. Coordinate with ADOT to complete the airport runway pavement preservation.
- b. The maintenance personnel checked the perimeter fencing to ensure the fence was not compromised or damaged to prohibit livestock from entering. The crew also swept for any debris that may be on the runway. The ongoing maintenance activities are both preventative and routine. The activities are also performed on a need basis.

Shiprock Airport

Accomplishment Date: Sep-23

- a. Secured \$150,000 for the airport aeronautical survey from NMDOT
- b. Secured \$480,000 for the design and construction of AWOS from NMDOT
- c. Secured \$1,502,000 for the Airport Apron and Runway Safety Areas from NMDOT
- d. The Airport maintenance personnel made minor repairs to the gate and checked the windsock to ensure they were working properly. The windsock is part of the navigational system. The ongoing maintenance activities are both preventative and routine. The activities are also performed on a need basis. The drainages were cleared of debris and

repaired. Due to recent high winds weeds #
were blown into drainage.

GOALS

Continue to support the community

Maintain our commitment to the Chapter Houses by continuing discussions on roads, bridges, and airports. We will work closely with Chapter Leadership, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Navajo DOT staff to address road assessment findings. Furthermore, we will continue to collaborate with partnered companies, Wilson & Company and Dibble.

Goal Target Date: 2024

Update on Navajo Nation Airports

Sustain and enhance the maintenance activities at our airports, ensuring the safety and reliability of our navigational systems. Our goal is to proactively address maintenance needs and keep the facilities in excellent condition. This includes ongoing preventative and routine maintenance, especially in response to environmental challenges such as debris accumulation due to high winds.

Goal Target Date: 2024 - 2026

Secure funding

Secured significant funding for airport reconstruction design, aeronautical survey, and AWOS design and construction at Crownpoint Airport.

Goal Target Date: 2024 - 2025



Contact the Nygren Administration



opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Contact-Us/