



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Missing and Murdered Diné Relative Task Force addresses critical issues impacting Navajo families



Chairwoman Amber Kanazbah Crotty reaffirmed the Task Force’s commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of Diné citizens.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Feb. 13, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force met to address ongoing concerns affecting the Diné people, including fraudulent sober living homes, immigration-related challenges, and access to vital records.

The meeting brought together leaders, advocates, and stakeholders to assess the progress of Operation Rainbow Bridge and develop solutions to better support Diné families.

Chairwoman Amber Kanazbah Crotty reaffirmed the Task Force’s commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of Diné citizens, particularly those impacted by displacement, substance abuse, and the loss of vital documentation.

“We are standing firm in our advocacy for our unsheltered relatives and those affected by fraudulent practices. Our goal is to create sustainable solutions that ensure every Diné citizen has access to the resources they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and security,” said Chairwoman Crotty.

Division Director of Children and Family Services Thomas Cody gave an update report on Operation Rainbow Bridge, a critical initiative that addressed the widespread exploitation of Diné citizens through fraudulent sober living homes. He informed the MMDR Task Force that ORB successfully established helplines to assist community members with vital records,

missing persons reports, and immigration concerns. Sonlatsa Jim, Deputy Director of Children and Family Services also reported that majority of calls taken were related to obtaining proper identification documents.

The taskforce highlighted challenges in issuing proper identification, particularly for unsheltered relatives who lack access to standard documentation services. Michael Henderson, Deputy Director of the Division of Public Safety, emphasized the importance of modernizing the Navajo Nation's vital records system to meet the increasing demand for identification support.

In response, Chairwoman Crotty discussed potential partnerships with local organizations, urban Indian centers, and federal agencies to streamline services and ensure affected individuals receive the necessary support.

The Missing and Murdered Diné Taskforce remains dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive environment for all Diné citizens and will continue advocating for policy changes that benefit the community.

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