



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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**25th Navajo Nation Council joins Diné Action Plan Winter Gathering to advance
culturally grounded solutions for community safety and healing**



Council Delegates attended the two-day DAP meeting focused on addressing violence, substance use, suicide, and Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives.

FARMINGTON, N.M. — On Friday, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Diné Action Plan task force leaders, community partners, and subject matter experts during the 2025 Diné Action Plan Winter Gathering.

The two-day gathering focused on reviewing progress, sharing updates, and setting direction for the next phase of work addressing violence, substance use, suicide, and Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives. Participants reaffirmed the Diné Action Plan as a long-term, culturally grounded initiative rooted in Navajo teachings, collective responsibility, and cross-system collaboration.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, chair of the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force, underscored the need for coordination and accountability across justice and service systems.

“The Diné Action Plan represents our collective responsibility to confront these modern-day monsters with clarity, compassion, and cultural strength,” Crotty said. “By bringing together our task forces, service providers, and leadership, we strengthen our ability to deliver protection, healing, and justice for our people, especially our most vulnerable relatives.”

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez and Council Delegate Cherylin Yazzie also attended the gathering and expressed continued support for the Diné Action Plan and its task forces, emphasizing shared responsibility and sustained investment.

“The Diné Action Plan has my full support. This Plan recognizes that healing and prevention are compassionate, culturally grounded, and informed by real data,” Nez said. “These task forces are doing critical work, and I remain committed to supporting their efforts that restore and sustain balance in our communities.”

Throughout the gathering, members of the Violence Prevention, Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention, Suicide Prevention, and Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives task forces provided updates on initiatives, service delivery, and ongoing challenges. Participants included representatives from Navajo Nation programs, Indian Health Service partners, state agencies, and local organizations, all focused on strengthening coordination to ensure services reach communities across the Navajo Nation.

The Violence Prevention and Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention task forces highlighted efforts to address urgent safety and health concerns, including intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and substance misuse. Strategies include culturally informed prevention, expanded treatment and peer support, talking circles, naloxone distribution, transportation assistance, and telehealth services.

The Suicide Prevention and Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives task forces emphasized coordinated, data-informed, and survivor-centered approaches. Updates included collaboration with health providers, community education grounded in Navajo teachings, victim advocacy development, human trafficking awareness trainings, completion of a Tribal Community Response Plan, and proposed criminal code amendments.

A key theme of the gathering was the continued development of culturally grounded data systems to guide decision-making and accountability, including the need for centralized data hubs to better identify trends and service gaps.

Division of Public Safety Director and Diné Action Plan Chair Michael Henderson reiterated that the Diné Action Plan is a long-term effort rooted in Navajo language, stories, and teachings, aligned with modern public safety and public health practices.

The gathering concluded with a commitment to finalize comprehensive reports outlining accomplishments, challenges, and priorities for the next five years, reinforcing a shared responsibility to protect the safety, health, and well-being of Navajo people.

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