



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force receives report from Yideeskąądi Hózhoojį Center on treatment services**



**Partnerships and Communications Specialist Levi Long (Right) and Outreach Specialist Larita Anderson (Left) presented the report for Yideeskąądi Hózhoojį Center.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Friday, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force convened to receive a detailed report from the Yideeskąądi Hózhoojį Center (YHC), a Navajo Nation–owned residential treatment facility in Phoenix, Arizona.

The presentation focused on the center’s services, growth, and role in supporting Navajo individuals and families impacted by substance use and related challenges.

“As a Task Force, we are committed to strengthening services that protect and heal our people,” said Task Force Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty. “The work being done at YHC consists of culturally grounded care, community partnerships, and accountability. This effort addresses the root causes that contribute to the MMDR crisis and supports our relatives on their path to healing.”

Members from the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, including Louvannina Tsosie, Yanabah Smith, and Daelyn Benally, joined to observe, learn, and contribute to ongoing efforts addressing the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives crisis.

YHC Partnerships and Communications Specialist Levi Long and Outreach Specialist Larita Anderson presented the report. They provided an overview of the facility, which opened in September 2025. In its first six months, YHC has served more than 200 Navajo individuals

and supported over 40 graduates through its residential treatment program. The facility has grown to accommodate a capacity of more than 60, reflecting increasing demand for culturally responsive care.

YHC offers a 60 to 90-day residential treatment program followed by intensive outpatient care, including home visits and continued support for individuals after discharge. The center integrates traditional Diné healing practices with clinical treatment, including talking circles, cultural art activities, family therapy, and the Navajo Wellness Model.

Task Force members asked how YHC is addressing community concerns and expanding its reach.

MMDR Task Force Co-Chair Tatyana Billy raised concerns related to fraudulent sober living homes that affected many Navajo families in the Phoenix area. "After the fraudulent sober living homes in Phoenix, how does YHC plan or is currently working towards assisting our relatives who are struggling to trust another rehabilitation center," asked Co-Chair Billy.

Anderson responded that rebuilding trust is central to their work. She explained that their admissions team is trained to recognize and respect the lived experiences of individuals impacted by those incidents, and that they work closely with families to advocate for their loved ones. Transparency in operations and culturally familiar staff interactions were identified as key strategies in restoring confidence.

Youth Advisory Council member Louvannina Tsosie asked about potential partnerships with organizations serving Navajo populations outside the Nation.

Long noted that they are already collaborating with urban Indian organizations in Arizona, including the Phoenix Indian Center, and are open to expanding partnerships to better serve Navajo citizens living off the reservation.

The presentation also highlighted YHC's coordination with Navajo Nation public safety agencies and correctional programs to provide treatment opportunities for justice-involved individuals. In addition, the center has developed specialized outreach for veterans, including partnerships connected to the John McCain Veterans Center and targeted programming within its outpatient services.

The MMDR Task Force will continue to work with service providers, community organizations, and Navajo Nation leadership to implement recommendations and expand access to resources.

The MMDR Task Force voted seven in favor and none opposed to accept the report. The Task Force reaffirmed its commitment to sharing critical resources with the public and strengthening partnerships that address the underlying issues connected to missing and murdered Diné relatives.

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