

HONORING NATIVE LIFE

Native American Suicide Prevention Clearinghouse

Presenters:

Robyn Atencio, Chair, Tribal Advisory Council

Doreen Bird, Program Specialist

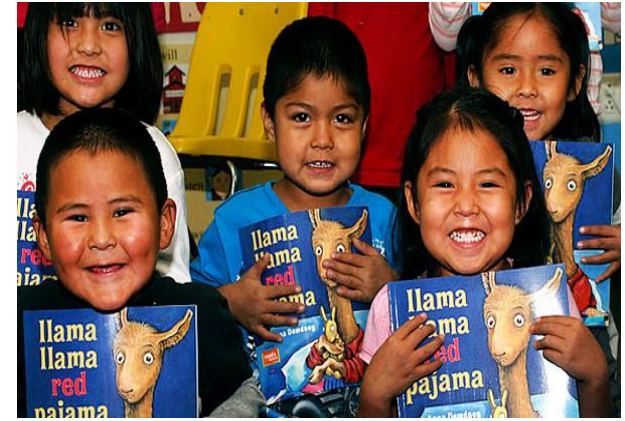
Sheri Lesansee, Program Manager

August 28, 2014

Indian Affairs Committee Meeting

Albuquerque, NM





Our Native Youth

- New Mexico has been plagued with some of the highest rates of suicide in the United States.
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people age 15 to 24 in the state.
- According to the 2010 census, New Mexico ranks 2nd among the most suicide rates in the United States (20.4 per 100,000 population).
- Ethnically, Native Americans have the highest suicide rates and Native American youth suffer from a disproportionately high suicide rate.





Coloradas Mangas – Mescalero Apache Tribe Mangas spoke on Capitol Hill in 2010, pleading with legislators that there needs to be more of a focus on youth suicide prevention education and centers for young American Indians.

16-year-old Coloradas Mangas of the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico, testified that the rising teenage suicide rate among American Indians and Alaskan Natives has been all too real. Several of his friends have taken their lives and he attempted to do the same.





Native American Suicide Initiative – A New Beginning – Bill Signing SB 417



Support from NM Legislation

- 2011 - NM SB 417- An Act to Establish a Statewide Clearinghouse & NA Prevention Initiatives. Enacted March 31, 2011 without appropriations
- 2012 - NM SB 95 – Act Making an Appropriation for \$150,000 to UNM to fund Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance program and provide culturally appropriate suicide prevention, intervention and post suicide events.
- July 2012 – Appropriation approved for \$100,000.

NM SB 447 - Creation of Native American Tribal Advisory Council (2013)

- Eleven voting members shall assist in developing policies, rules and priorities for the New Mexico clearinghouse for Native American suicide prevention.
- Eight voting members approved and three pending approval
 - Eight Northern Indian Pueblos: Elias Vigil ~ Approved
 - Pueblos of Laguna & Zuni: Darrow Peynetsa ~ Approved
 - All Pueblos Governors Council: Joyce Naseyowma-Chalan ~ Approved
 - Ten Southern Indian Pueblos: Robyn Atencio ~ Approved
 - Jicarilla Apache Nation - Susan Casias ~ Approved
 - Urban Native American Population: Norman Ration ~ Approved
 - UNM-HSC (2 members): Kenneth Lucero & Dr. Mauricio Tohen ~ Approved
 - Eastern Navajo Nation - Pending
 - Western Navajo Nation - Pending
 - Mescalero Apache Tribe - Pending



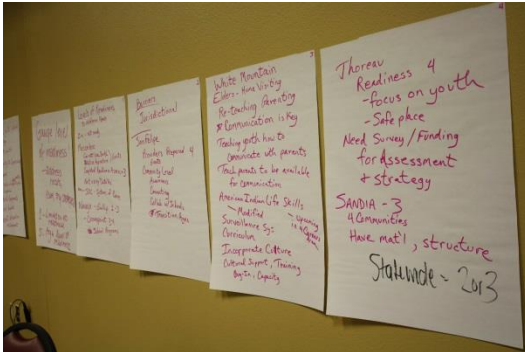


Establish Native American Tribal Advisory Council

- Three meetings have been held by the NA Tribal Advisory Council.
 - First meeting held 12/20/2013;
 - Second Meeting 1/10/2014;
 - Third meeting 2/28/2014
 - Fourth meeting 9/4/2014
- Build infrastructure of Tribal Advisory Council, discussion of legislative priorities and presentation by UNM on proposed budget for Clearinghouse



Honoring Native Life



A statewide clearinghouse and technical assistance program called the "New Mexico clearinghouse for Native American suicide prevention" to provide:

- **culturally appropriate suicide prevention,**
- **Intervention**
- **Post-event assistance**

statewide to Native American individuals, families and tribes, nations and pueblos living with suicide, attempted suicide or the risk of suicide.



Statewide Clearinghouse

- Establish a website for resources for professionals and community members
- Social media site geared to provide resources and information to youth, community members and provider.
- Community outreach designed to increase awareness about the clearinghouse
- Provide training & develop educational resources with tribal and community programs.



Technical Assistance

- Program planning, coordination, and evaluation
- Grant writing
- Educational presentations
- Student mentorship



Technical Assistance Activities

- Program planning & coordination services provided:
 - Crownpoint Behavioral Health
 - Gallup Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative Program (MSPI)
 - Honoring Native Life Youth Council
 - Isleta Pueblo Behavioral Health
 - Navajo Nation Public Health System (NNPHS)



Technical Assistance Activities

- ToHajiilee MSPI
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Support other Native American Agencies:
 - NM Inter-Tribal Community Services Council
 - NM Native American Training Institute
 - Southwest Native American Veterans' Association



Technical Assistance Activities

- **Program evaluation**
 - Albuquerque Area IHS – Follow up evaluation of training.
 - Isleta Behavioral Health Program
 - UNM-Center for Education Policy Research
- **Grant writing**
 - San Felipe Pueblo
 - Southwest Native American Veterans' Association
- **Educational Presentations**
 - Tohajiilee Adult Program and Families
 - Zuni Teen Health: presentation for youth-general mental health
 - UNM Psychiatry Residents: Digital Story Telling
- **Student mentorship**
 - Santa Fe Indian School: Senior Honors Project
 - HNL Youth Council



Suicide Prevention: Training & Seminars to increase knowledge and skills



Suicide prevention initiatives have been broad and provided through :

- Educational Presentations
- Youth Council: Leadership and skill building
- Curriculum training and adaptation
- Tele-Health Seminars and Presentations to increase knowledge based for clinical and community providers as well as community members.



Suicide Intervention

- Clinical response to two communities with training and support for providers and educators after 2 traumatic events
- A resource to community clinicians who requested assistance for Native American clients at risk for suicide.
- Provided training to clinicians on “best practices” on suicide risk assessment and intervention- webinars



Post-vention Activities

- Supported tribal programs through the establishment of crisis response team.
- Provided programmatic support to Native American veterans' town hall meeting – examine root causes of barriers to access to care.



Other CRCBH Activities that Support HNL

- Provided webinars viewed by over **650** NM clinicians working in rural areas on suicide prevention
- Organized electives for 3 Native American psychiatry residents and 1 Native American psychology graduate student who want to work and learn in NA communities
- Provided mentorship to students and residents interested in behavioral health fields.



Strategies for the Clearinghouse and Tribal Advisory Council:

Established 3 overarching goals to meet the elements of the original legislation:

1. Building capacity
2. Support community-based projects
3. Support education and internship for student (high school and college) development and mentorship



Capacity Building



- Continue community outreach, engagement, and collaboration between Tribes, Tribal health providers and Tribal resource centers and UNM for cross-training in community centered, culturally relevant approaches.
- In collaboration with the Tribal Advisory Council develop a model with strategies for working with Native American communities for building and sustaining community partnerships
- Increasing local community capacity through community engagement, leadership, education, and funding opportunities.



Support Community-based Programs

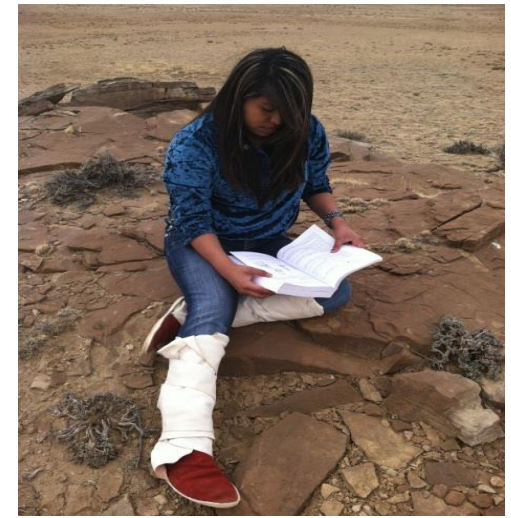
- Explore ways to support & sustain local community level programs and suicide prevention efforts
- Work with tribal leadership & communities to identify priorities for suicide prevention
- Continue development training and educational materials in collaboration with tribal communities:
- Support community dissemination of crisis response plans and share models with other communities



Education and Internship

Engage University leadership and programs in developing workforce pipelines for tribal community members engaged in health science and behavioral health fields.

- Advance recruitment of Native American students into the behavioral health fields
- Provide opportunities for internship and placement in community based programs.



Future Support

- State appropriations would support:
 - Community based programs
 - Building community capacity
 - Develop pipeline for student development and mentorship

Prevent suicide

**Bring hope to Native communities and
Honor Native Life.**



Our Hope, Our Children, Our Future



Honoring Native Life

Website:

www.honoringnativelife.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HonoringNativeLife>

Honoring Native Life Clearinghouse

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