

To'Hajiilee-Alamo “Addressing the Needs of Native American Children”

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Presentation to New Mexico Interim Indian Affairs Committee
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Highlights for Today's Presentation

- ▶ To'Hajiilee and Alamo Resources – Interagency Planning and Coordination
- ▶ Tribal Infrastructure Funds Projects and Special Projects
- ▶ Challenges and Solutions:
- ▶ TIFF will need to include “special regional projects” instead of one project per community
- ▶ State Care coordinator for youth and adults for behavioral health services
- ▶ More state–tribal training and non custodial services needed (i.e. probation officer training)

Interagency Planning and Coordination

- ▶ **Resource Meetings:** (1) To'Hajiilee (2) Alamo on a monthly basis hosted by the Judicial District
- ▶ **Stakeholders:**
 - Health systems: local tribal 638 behavioral health programs; Indian Health Services; School Based Health Center (ACL Teen Center)
 - Social Services: Navajo Division of Social Services
 - Educational Systems: local schools and NM Indian Education Program
 - Law Enforcement and Tribal Prosecutors
 - Local Chapters and their programs
 - Community
 - State: NM Human Services; CYFD; CBHTR, NMDOH OSAH

Maximizing local resources

- ▶ Limited Navajo Nation programs in the community
- ▶ Underfunded behavioral health systems (638 and Indian Health Services)
- ▶ Lack of adult and juvenile inpatient and outpatient services
- ▶ Identifying, advancing, and expanding services beyond the tribal Navajo Nation programs and working collaboratively with New Mexico programs
- ▶ Increase capacity and infrastructure

To'Hajiilee and Alamo Community Demographics

County	Tribe	County Population AI/AN Population (NM: 2,080,048)	AI/AN Percent (NM:)	Per Capita Personal Income (NM: \$30,706)	Children 18 and younger at or below poverty level (2000-2009) (NM: 25.8%)	Unemployment Rates (%) (2008)
Bernalillo	Navajo	651,612 (County) (AI/AN)	31.3%	\$34,983 (County)	21%	4.0 – 4.4%
	Canoncito Band of Navajo "To'Hajiilee" 121 sq. miles	1,649 (On Reservation)	<1%	\$7,578	45.9	55.8% (See Footnote 7)
Socorro	Navajo	18863 (County) (AI/AN)	<1%	\$23,873 (County)	38.9	3.0 – 3.9%
	Alamo Band of Navajo "T'iistoh" 39.7 sq. miles	1,085 (On Reservation)	<1%	\$4039 (See Footnote 8)	45.9 (See Footnote 7)	72.5% Footnote 8)

Lowest per capita incomes

Highest Child Poverty Rates

Footnotes on next page

Footnotes To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District slide 3:

- ▶ 1. University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Preliminary BBER Population Estimates, Vol. II No. 2 (Dec. 2009)
http://bber.unm.edu/pubs/CoChartMapBook_II2.pdf
- ▶ 2. Id. BBER, Page 1, Column 2. http://bber.unm.edu/pubs/CoChartMapBook_II2.pdf
- ▶ 3. Id. BBER, page 1, Column 8, http://bber.unm.edu/pubs/CoChartMapBook_II2.pdf
- ▶ 4. <http://bber.unm.edu/demo/SAIPEunder18pov09.htm>
- ▶ 5. UNM BBER, Vol. II No. 2 (Dec. 2009), page 27, Source: NM Workforce Solutions.
- ▶ 6.
<https://www.pagnet.org/documents/RDC/census/populationdata/demographic2k/profi lepdfsaz/280042430.pdf>
- ▶ 7.
<https://www.pagnet.org/documents/RDC/census/populationdata/demographic2k/profi lepdfsaz/280042430.pdf>
- ▶ 8. Census Designated Place, <http://factfinder.census.gov>, See also:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alamo,_New_Mexico

Native American Children Services and Coordination

- » Access to health and education

To'Hajiilee Truancy Protocol

- ▶ Court, To'Hajiilee Community School, and Local Prosecutor work together to develop a system of referring truants and parents to Judicial Branch Peacemaking program
- ▶ Local Peacemakers (community leaders) help youth (truants) and parents develop a plan to “stay in school”
- ▶ Effective rates: increased attendance rate at 94% at To'Hajiilee Community School
- ▶ <http://www.navajocourts.org/PressReleases/NI-Peacemaking%20Program%20Newsletter%20Vol.%201,%20Issue%201.pdf>

Resource Referral System

- ▶ On Reservation youth self mutilating
- ▶ EMO – Gang Activity
- ▶ Resource members created a referral system for on and off reservation
- ▶ Priorities were identified including Prevention activities for youth during summer
- ▶ See Handout

Navajo Housing Authority Youth Summit

- ▶ March, 2011 at Albuquerque N.M.
- ▶ Native youth and parents from To'Hajiilee and Alamo received training in gangs, youth development and leadership
- ▶ Presentations included information on the Children's Code and the law processes
- ▶ Navajo Dept of Law Enforcement presentations
- ▶ NAHASDA funds were utilized by NHA

Native H.O.P.E. Suicide Prevention Training

- ▶ MSPI initiative (Meth Suicide Prevention – To'Hajiilee Behavioral Health 638 Program)
- ▶ Community facilitators training youth
- ▶ Peer to Peer youth training “Sources of Strength”
- ▶ To'Hajiilee Youth Council created and meeting in July, August, 2011
- ▶ Youth Council meet once a week

To'Hajiilee Behavioral Health Prevention Programming

- ▶ Youth Program starting Sept. 2011
- ▶ Once a week for nine (9) weeks
- ▶ Interactive workshops chosen by youth
- ▶ Computer lab time for research, tutoring and other academic assignments

Tribal Infrastructure Project Requests

- » Navajo Nation Judicial Branch
To'Hajiilee Navajo Chapter

Purpose

- ▶ Access to Justice
- ▶ Safety of children and families
- ▶ Addressing transportation issues (for teleconferencing)
- ▶ Liability issues for defendants, respondents

Special Project Request: Judicial Branch

- ▶ 10 Judicial Districts. Four Judicial Districts in NM: To'Hajiilee/Alamo; Shiprock; Crownpoint; Ramah
- ▶ Telecommunications and Connectivity project: Connecting courts; video conferencing with Judge and Crownpoint Detention Facilities (Fiscal Agent: Bernalillo County)
- ▶ Future Projects: Planning dollars for Youth Rehabilitation and Detention facility; and Adult Multi-Purpose Justice Center: (Detention Facility)

Tribal Infrastructure Funds (TIFF)

- ▶ Limits the number of TIFF projects PER community
- ▶ Expansion of the limits should include special projects that cover the entire “Region” like the connectivity projects
- ▶ To’Hajiilee Chapter projects for roads are critical (To’Hajiilee–Alamo Road)

To'Hajiilee-Alamo Court Staff

- ▶ One District Judge
- ▶ Two Courts: Alamo and To'Hajiilee
- ▶ Two Court Clerks per Court (4 Total)
- ▶ Two Probation Officers
- ▶ One Bailiff
- ▶ One Peacemaker Liaison
- ▶ One Court Administrator
- ▶ Office Tech, 2 Custodians
- ▶ One Court Administrator

Navajo Division of Social Services

- ▶ Navajo Tribal Program
- ▶ One social worker for both communities
- ▶ Staff Attorney for the To'hajiilee–Alamo Judicial District is working on a Title IV–E Plan with the Division
- ▶ Navajo Nation Children's Code (new)

Challenges:

- ▶ One Senior Prosecutor for Alamo and To'Hajiilee
- ▶ Juvenile Presenting Officer Position (eliminated)
- ▶ Two police officers maybe on duty at one time
- ▶ One (1) jail space per community located at Crownpoint, NM
- ▶ Travel time for Law Enforcement: 8–10 hours for transporting, booking, etc.

Staff Challenges

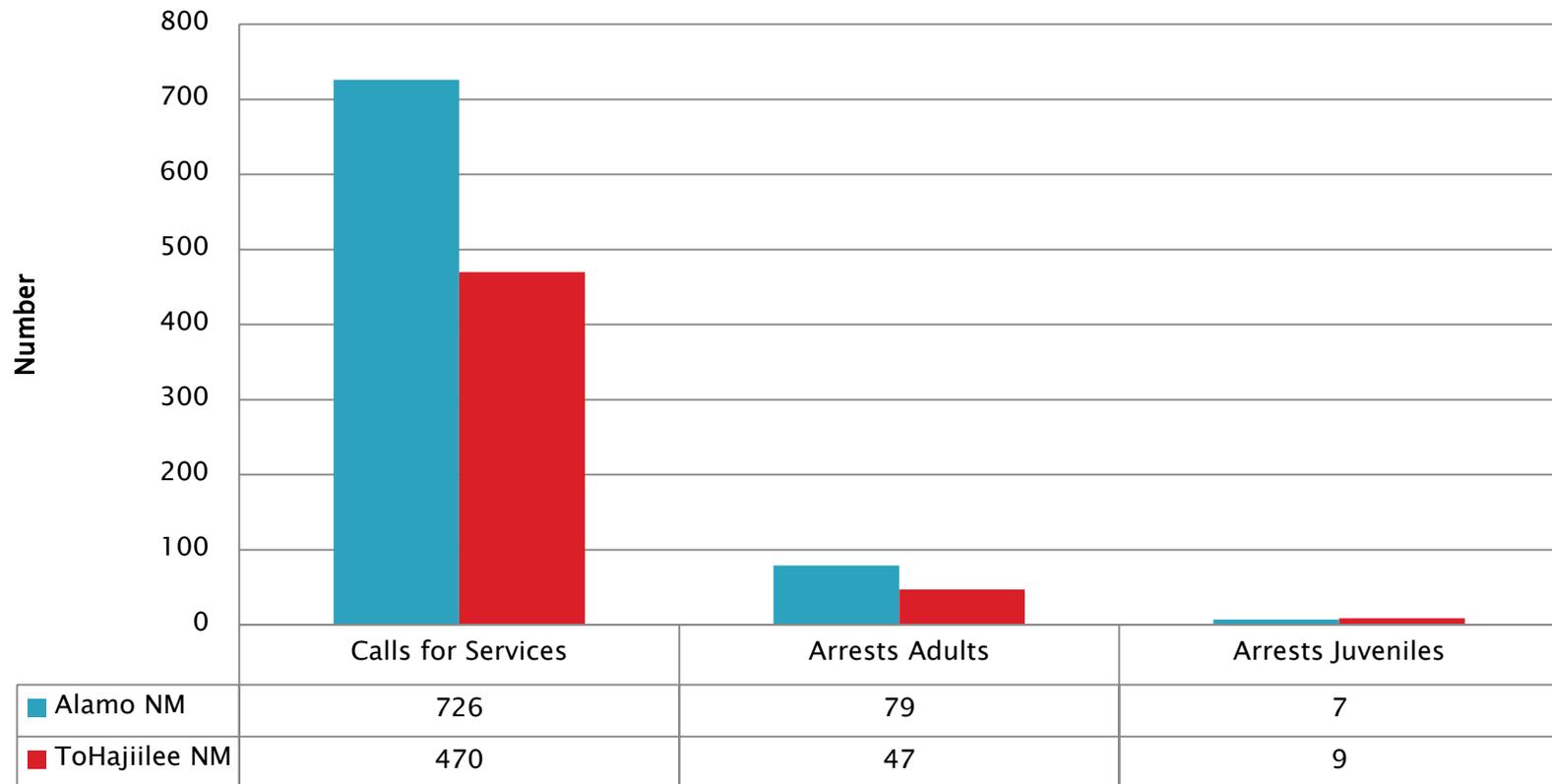
- ▶ Court Hearings and program work require extensive travel between Alamo and To'Hajiilee (1.25 hours) on unimproved road (i.e. 4WD vehicle, tires are a problem, safety of judge and staff)
- ▶ Division of Social Services worker has the same challenges

Staff Challenges Continued:

- ▶ Service of process of court documents by Police has been limited due to lack of adequate police force
- ▶ Prosecutor filings are dependent on police response, i.e. “no complaint” equals “no new case”
- ▶ Next slide shows that community needs more police officers:

Calls and Arrest Data

To'Hajiilee–Alamo Judicial District 2010 Data NDLE



Rates of Violent Crime

- ▶ U.S. Dept. of Justice estimated that across the U.S., the annual average violent crime rate among American Indians was twice as high as that of African Americans, and 2.5 times as high as that of whites. Domestic and sexual violence against AI women is “among the most critical public safety challenges” in Indian Country.

(Indian Country Criminal Justice: Departments of the Interior and Justice Should Strengthen Coordination to Support Tribal Courts, GAO Report, Feb. 2011)

Alcohol Related Crime

- ▶ Alcohol and drug use play a “significant role” in violent crimes in Indian Country. According to DOJ, American Indian victims reported alcohol use by 62 percent of offenders compared to 42 percent for all races.

(Indian Country Criminal Justice: Departments of the Interior and Justice Should Strengthen Coordination to Support Tribal Courts, GAO Report, Feb. 2011)

New Mexico Data Alcohol related death Rates (2004–2006)

- ▶ Native American alcohol death rates are 2–4 times White rates for both males and females
- ▶ The NM homicide rate is 30% higher than the national rate with the American Indian rate three times the White rate.
(<http://www.health.state.nm.us/dpp/2010ReportCard.pdf>)
- ▶ The disparity ratio has increased.

(New Mexico Health Disparity Report Card, 2010)

Initiatives – Solutions

- ▶ Healing to Wellness Court (“Drug Court”)

Defendants go through a suspended prosecution and work with a “care coordinator” to access behavioral health services on and off reservation.

Treatment team includes the participation of the Judge and Probation and Parole, Peacemaker Liaison. Strong partnership with Prosecutor.

Initiatives– Solutions

- ▶ Teen Court with school based Substance abuse prevention programming; life skills; and peer jury model of intervention for first offenders

(Due to the success of the Crownpoint Teen Court model)

Utilizing State Services available to all New Mexico Citizens

- ▶ Outpatient and in patient treatment services
- ▶ Assessments and evaluations
- ▶ Case management and coordination
- ▶ Medicaid reimbursement for tribal members
- ▶ Recognition of tribal court orders for commitments and/or placements
- ▶ Program development and technical assistance

Initiatives– Solutions

- ▶ State–Tribal Partnership with New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department to create access points in the state systems so that Native Youth can access “non custodial” services for behavioral health (counseling, treatment, recovery).
- ▶ Request for care coordinator to be assigned to the District through state resources
- ▶ Training for probation officers offered free of charge to Judicial Branch probation officers

Initiatives–Solutions

- ▶ Cross Commissioning of Socorro County Sheriff Department officers to enforce Navajo Tribal laws in the Navajo courts
- ▶ Training Completed in March, 2011 by the To'Hajiilee–Alamo Judicial District Staff Attorney and Peacemaker Liaison

Peacemaking Program:

- ▶ Quarterly Peacemaker meeting with Judge from To'Hajiilee–Alamo Judicial District
- ▶ Shared trainings
- ▶ Peacemakers part of the Healing to Wellness “Drug Court” program development to infuse culture based programming in the drug court model (i.e. traditional teachings and learnings)

Summary Take Home Points

- ▶ Infrastructure: TIFF board will need to include “a special regional project for the Navajo Judicial Branch” instead of one project per community
- ▶ Coordination with NM CYFD: State Care coordinator for youth and adults for behavioral health services
- ▶ Training: More state–tribal training for probation officers and staff
- ▶ Non–custodial services: assessments, evaluations, funding, and placements

Summary take home points continued:

- ▶ Outpatient and in patient treatment services
- ▶ Assessments and evaluations
- ▶ Case management and coordination
- ▶ Medicaid reimbursement for tribal members
- ▶ Recognition of tribal court orders for commitments and/or placements
- ▶ Program development and technical assistance

For more information

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