



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Dine Action Plan Regaining Momentum While Inspiring Unfamiliar Initiatives

Kayenta, Arizona – On March 6th and 7th, 2024 the Dine Action Plan (DAP) Advisory Group and Task Group Members attended the quarterly DAP meeting in Kayenta, Arizona to plan its Data Summit. The Data Summit will help identify strategies and initiate decision making about addressing challenges on the Navajo Nation with alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence prevention, and Missing, Murdered Dine' Relatives.



Pictured: DAP members meeting at the Kayenta Township.

The DAP is considered a roadmap for the three Navajo tribal branches, Executive, Legislative, and Judicial, to address public safety and social program needs to address the social ills plaguing the Navajo Nation.

Since 2015, the three branches of the Navajo Nation government have been collaboratively working together, using cultural concepts and teachings, to improve Navajo Nation laws, policies, and processes to better meet the needs of the Navajo People, explained DAP Coordinator and Navajo Division of Social Services Executive Director, Thomas Cody.

The purpose of DAP is to be localized and specific to the community strengths and resources focusing on the following areas:

- Utilize Navajo traditional cultural methods for creating, implementing, measuring, and improving holistic public safety programs to address suicide, violence, and addiction.
- Involve strategic leadership of key Navajo Nation public safety partners. Each key stakeholder will be represented in the Advisory Group.
- Create greater collaboration among persons with subject-matter expertise and programmatic implementation responsibility within the Navajo Nation public safety system.

The Navajo Division of Social Services (NDSS) is under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation's three-branch government. Under the leadership of the NDSS Executive Director, NDSS programs and departments provide social services and human services, consistent with professional social work ethics and values, and human services in accordance with Navajo cultural values to help reduce and alleviate hardship.



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- Identify, including data collection and analysis for risks and protective factors, all programs and resources and assess for control and treatment services for trauma-related symptoms from violence to prevent self-harm, fatalities, and substance-use disorder and addiction.
- Modify or supplement existing programs and authorities with tested methods and heighten strategic public services for victims, family, safety, health, education, and judicial with prevention of crime and investment in youth and people.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive and multidisciplinary plan with evidence-based prevention, response, and justice principles in an active engagement manner to address justice system issues.
- Improve community engagement and awareness regarding Navajo Nation public safety.

The Navajo Division of Social Services (DSS) has been appointed by the Nygren Montoya administration to facilitate the Navajo Dine Action Plan Advisory Group and Task Group meetings.

“The DSS fully embraced the opportunity to assist with this monumental initiative. The division assists the DAP Advisory Group by facilitating the quarterly meetings. Every quarter, the DSS will plan, secure, and manage the agenda for the DAP meetings. The DAP Chair and Co-Chair guide the Advisory Group members and Task Group members to meet its goals. The DAP members will host a Data Summit to catapult the DAP’s momentum. Attendees will include practitioners, partners, and leaders from the government and the community who are united by the common goal, to share data to identify solutions capable of supporting and advocating for the Nation’s toughest social problems,” stated Cody.

Another initiative worth mentioning that is in direct relation to the purpose of DAP is the Preserving Navajo Families Initiative, which was launched in the Fall of 2023. The initiative was established by DSS in accordance with the Nygren-Montoya Administration platform to invite cultural and religious sects to empower and connect Navajo families back to their spirituality and aid in the healing of our Nation.

“The purpose of the Preserving Navajo Families Initiative is to unite multiple faith groups to support and advocate for resources in combating the Naayéé’ (the monsters) that our Dine’ families battle with daily. The DSS took an unfamiliar but proactive approach and has taken the lead in collaborative efforts with our Nation’s interfaith-based groups that respectfully include the Dine’ Medicine men Association, the Native American Church (NAC) and Christian churches. It is our goal to develop partnerships to create a community of hope and opportunities for children and families. Visit our website, nndss.org, or follow our Facebook page for our upcoming events,” shared Cody.

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The data summit will take place on Navajo during the Summer of 2024. For more information contact Marlinda Littleman, Deputy Division Director at marlinda.littleman@ndss.org.

To learn more about the Preserving Navajo Families Initiative contact the DSS Office of the Executive Director at (928) 871-6851.

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