



25th Navajo Nation Council

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 12, 2024**

## **Advisory Group Convenes to Strengthen Diné Action Plan**



### **Diné' Action Plan Advisory Group (DAP)**

**FARMINGTON, N.M.** – On Thursday, June 6, members of the Diné Action Plan (DAP) Advisory Group convened at San Juan College in Farmington, N.M., to strengthen the plan in addressing public safety, violence, substance abuse, suicide, and Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) on the Navajo Nation.

Approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council as Legislation 0184-21 in October 2021, the Diné Action Plan expanded on the framework of the 1987 Tribal Action Plan in strategizing traditional ideology and support in addressing four impacted areas: violence, substance abuse, suicide, and missing and murdered Navajo relatives. A fifth task group addresses DAP capacity building and public awareness initiatives.

“The DAP is a critical resource that incorporates the Diné traditional values and principles of Nitsahakees (thinking), Nahat’a, (planning), lina (action), and Siihasin (reflection) to address impact areas on the Navajo Nation,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley (Tachee/ Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain). “We need this tool to navigate solutions to the impact areas, while reflecting on traditional thoughts about maintaining balance in our solutions.”

The meeting gathered representatives from the Navajo Nation Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches, Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees, and related Navajo Nation departments and divisions.

Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley Tse'alnaozt'i'i; Sheepsprings, Beclabito, Gadiiahi/To'Koi), who serves as the lead representative from the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, spoke about using the DAP as a tool to mitigate Navajo Nation child sex abuse crimes by addressing the impacts of intergenerational trauma within family and community social structures.

"Our Navajo children are our most precious asset. As tribal leaders, we must commit to addressing intergenerational trauma on behalf of our children who cannot voice their vote or tell their stories," Delegate Crotty said. "We must be willing to open and create healing pathways for our people. It's only when we're completely healed that we'll be able to collectively mirror what leadership means at a community level."

Delegate Crotty said that addressing intergenerational trauma affects the root cause of what is internally manifest in the impact areas of public safety, violence, substance abuse, suicide, and MMDR. She said that neglecting this type of trauma exposes children to different types of psychosis that become apparent in behavior as early as preschool and head start. Often, trauma starts at home where children should feel safe.

To amplify the voices of Navajo children, Delegate Crotty said the 25th Navajo Nation Council has made a collective effort to reignite the Navajo Nation Youth Council so they can be a part of these critical conversations.

"I'm working with my colleagues to integrate youth voices into testimony and to empower our youth to be a part of the decision-making process," Delegate Crotty said. "We must create pathways that increase child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams to protect our communities."

Sonlatsa Jim, Office of the Speaker Staff Assistant and DAP Advisory Group co-chair, noted that the group has been successful in utilizing best practices in establishing trauma-informed planning, using traditional values and principles to advise decision making, and establishing a framework of kinship to guide the plan.

"The DAP is a living document. It's meant to be changed," Jim said. "It responds to issues happening in our communities."

The DAP is housed under the Navajo Division of Social Services (NNDSS) and the advisory group is chaired by Navajo Department of Criminal Investigation Director Michael Henderson. The advisory group meets quarterly and will meet again in three months.

The DAP Advisory Group leadership is comprised of Substance Abuse Task Force Leader Dr. Michelle Brandser, Suicide Task Force Leader Anthony Begay, Violence Task Force

Leader Eric Gale, and MMDR Task Force Leader Honorable Amber K. Crotty.  
For further information on the DAP Advisory group, please contact DAP Co-Chair  
Sonlatsa Jim at [sonlatsa.jim@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:sonlatsa.jim@navajo-nsn.gov).

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