



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee members commend progress of new Chinle Nursing Home facility

CHINLE, Ariz. – On Wednesday, members of the Resources and Development Committee visited the construction site of the new Chinle Nursing Home facility, located east of the Chinle Comprehensive Care Center in Chinle, Ariz. Chinle Nursing Home, a non-profit corporation under the state of Arizona and the Navajo Nation, provides adult care services for Navajo elders and disabled adults.

The new nursing facility will meet the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Service's regulatory requirements and include 80 nursing beds, a recreational area, fully equipped bathrooms, courtyard, visitation rooms, and administrative offices.

In February, the Navajo Nation Council approved \$4.2 million in supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to assist with the construction of the nursing home facility. The resolution is currently awaiting consideration by the president.

During the visit, RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) who represents the Chinle community, welcomed his colleagues to the construction site and continued to express his appreciation to the Council for supporting the elders on the Navajo Nation.



PHOTO: (left to right) Council Delegates Davis Filfred, Leonard H. Pete, Benjamin L. Bennett, and Lee Jack, Sr. at the construction site of the new Chinle Nursing Home facility in Chinle, Ariz. on Feb. 28, 2018.

“The Nation is very fortunate to have a nursing home facility because Navajo elders do not have to travel and stay off the reservation to receive services. Chinle is a great central location for elders and they feel more comfortable being near home and their families,” stated Delegate Pete.

RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) commended the nursing home administration, governing board, and Navajo Housing Authority, which contributed \$21.4 million to the project.

“There are many nursing homes in the border towns of the Nation and many Navajo elders occupy those homes. Our elders should be near home and given the opportunity to practice their traditions and prayers while under care. Chinle Nursing Home has many cultural and traditional services that other nursing homes cannot provide,” said Delegate Filfred.

Chinle Nursing Home administrator Wayne Claw expressed his appreciation to the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for supporting the project that will also support economic development for the central region of the Nation.

Also in attendance were Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone), Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh), and RDC vice chair Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), who recommended scheduling a meeting with NHA and Chinle Nursing Home regarding the need for more nursing homes on the Nation.

The construction of the new Chinle Nursing Home facility will be completed in December 2018.

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