



NAVAJO NATION

Division of Health

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Continued Surveillance with an Open Invitation to Communities Seeking Help Through Counseling

Thoreau, NM; June 11, 2010 - The Unified Command Emergency Response Team based in Thoreau, New Mexico, has pooled resources that include, but not limited to, counseling through community outreach, spiritual and traditional guidance, crisis intervention services and a 24 hour hotline. The Thoreau Chapter, the Crisis Center at Thoreau Clinic including the Gallup Indian Medical Center has an open door policy to anyone needing guidance, counseling, or just needing to talk.

The Unified Command briefing this week included a report of a non-fatal attempt of suicide in Smith Lake Community on June 2nd by a teenager; and also of the death by suicide of a 24 year old man in the community of Pinedale on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

Family members, Emergency Responders including Mental Health Therapists and Psychologist request that respect be given to families and the communities upon deaths by suicides, allowing families time to grieve, however long it takes. When people are ready to talk the therapist and psychologist are standing by to provide the guidance needed and help families through the process of healing.

Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services, Director, Ray Daw, expressed on behalf of the Unified Command Staff on Thursday afternoon that, "We are all affected by this and our hearts and prayers are with the families".

The Crisis Hotline is 1-877-836-8110 or (505) 862-0225/0227, emergency 911 is also available. All information is kept confidential.

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