



NAVAJO NATION

Division of Health

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health Service Assists Thoreau Crisis Intervention Team

Window Rock, AZ; August 20, 2010 – Counseling and therapy continues in Thoreau through a unified effort with Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health, Navajo Division of Health, Navajo Area Indian Health Service, McKinley County School District, McKinley County Sheriff's Department, New Mexico Department of Health and Public Health Service and Presbyterian Health Service, from the Unified Command under the Navajo Nation Medical Health Emergency Declaration of June 4, 2010.

Over the past several months, team members have continued to conduct home visits and hosts training sessions to keep families and community members informed and coping with suicide incidents to prevent future incidents. To date 40 families are going through counseling sessions in response to suicide and these families are in need of support to restore health and harmony in the family and in the community.

A five member team, the Public Health Service Mental Health Team from Rockville, Maryland joined the Unified Command on Sunday, August 15, 2010 and will be working with the communities. The five individuals is lead by Laura Grogan, the Officer in Charge who is an Occupational Therapist. Team members include Vincen Barnes a Psychologist, Venetta Thompson a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner; Torris Smith a Social Worker and MacArthur Lucio who is a Clinical Social Worker. Team members received an orientation and assignments to increase response to the emergency.

The team will be assisting the Thoreau Crisis Intervention Team by visiting families and doing assessments, consultations and referrals in Thoreau, Gallup and Crownpoint for the next 45 days. Their findings will determine whether emergency response should continue with additional teams from the United States Public Health Service.

The Suicide Prevention Hotline is still in place. If anyone wishes to talk the hotline number is available twenty four hours a day. The numbers are 1-877-836-8110 or (928) 871-6235 at the Thoreau Crisis Center.

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