

Diné Youth & Justice

The Official Newsletter of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch's Nábináhaazláago Initiative

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Case management services needed for youth in detention

Prior to 2009, there were no case management services available for juveniles held in tribal detention centers in Tuba City, Ariz., and Tohatchi, N.M. For the past two years, such services provided by the Nábináhaazláago Initiative under the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation addressed this unmet need. The grant that provided for these services to detained at-risk youth will end on Dec. 31, 2011. The need for collaborative case management services within the juvenile justice system is not limited to those juveniles that are detained and consent to case management services, but extends to the greater population of at-risk juveniles who are not detained and are non-adjudicated.

The 2010 Census data shows the Navajo Nation has a population of 166,824. Statistics from the Division of Public Safety's Management Information Section for the 2005 to 2010 period show a six-year average number of calls for service by the public to the dispatcher was 216,310, as depicted in Table 1 (excluding Ramah). In 2010, every Navajo Nation resident would have called for services 1.1 times. An average of 17 percent (or 36,314) of all calls for service resulted in an arrest by law enforcement with an average of 40 percent (14,537) of all arrests alcohol and drug related. (See Table 1: 2005-2010 Navajo Department of Law Enforcement Data: All Arrest & Service Calls).

An average of 1 percent (2,089) of all calls for services resulted in a juvenile's arrest and an average of 6 percent of all arrests by law enforcement resulted in a juvenile arrest. Specific yearly percentages are depicted on Table 2. These statistics show significant disproportions or disparities between system-wide calls for services and juvenile arrests, and between all arrests and juvenile arrests, which have negative outcomes or impacts on public safety, victimization and systemic accountability. (See Table 2: Percentage of Juvenile Arrest per All Arrests and All Arrest per Calls for Services by Department of Law Enforcement).

As illustrated in the Table 3, the Nábináhaazláago case management program served 466 in CY 2010 which is 19 percent of those 2,412 juveniles arrested by law enforcement and 54 percent of the 858 juveniles detained at tribal detention centers. Of the 466 juveniles receiving case management services, 92 percent (427) were non-adjudicated youth. A greater number of juveniles arrested (64 percent or 1,554) were not detained. Of the juveniles arrested, 23 percent (558 or 1 out of 4) have court cases filed in the judicial court system. Subsequently 77

percent or 1,854 juveniles arrested do not enter the Navajo Nation court system. From 2005 to 2010, the six-year average of juveniles arrested is 2,144 per year.

There were 700 offenses committed by the 466 detainees served by case management officers in calendar year 2010. The most prevailing combination of offenses committed were public intoxication (21 percent), disorderly conduct (16 percent), and criminal nuisance (13 percent). This accounts for 49 percent of all offenses committed. 63 percent of all offenses committed by juveniles are between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age, and will shortly exit or age-out of the juvenile justice system. Of 484 detainees surveyed, 68 percent come from single parent households. Of 390 detainees surveyed, 53 percent are 2-3 years behind in school. Of 285 surveyed, 46 percent experienced depression and 23 percent have tried suicide. Of 225 surveyed, 54 percent experienced neglect and/or physical abuse.

Between January 2010 to June 2011, there were 696 detainees assessed, 202 case plans developed, 108 multi-disciplinary case staffing held, and 171 referrals for supportive assessments, treatment, employment and/or other services made by six case management officers under the Nábináhaazláago Initiative. In FY 2010, the budgeted amount for program services was \$681,453.00, which equates to \$1,453 per juveniles served.

With the advent of the newly proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Children's Code, there will be significant changes in how non-adjudicated "child in need of supervision" and "delinquent" youth will be handled by

Cont'd. on p. 4

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

Nábináhaazláago Initiative Tuba City Case Management Office has been temporarily re-located to east of the Criminal Investigation Section office on Main Street while construction is taking place on the judicial/public safety complex in Tuba City.

2005-10 Navajo Department of Law Enforcement Data All Arrest & Service Calls

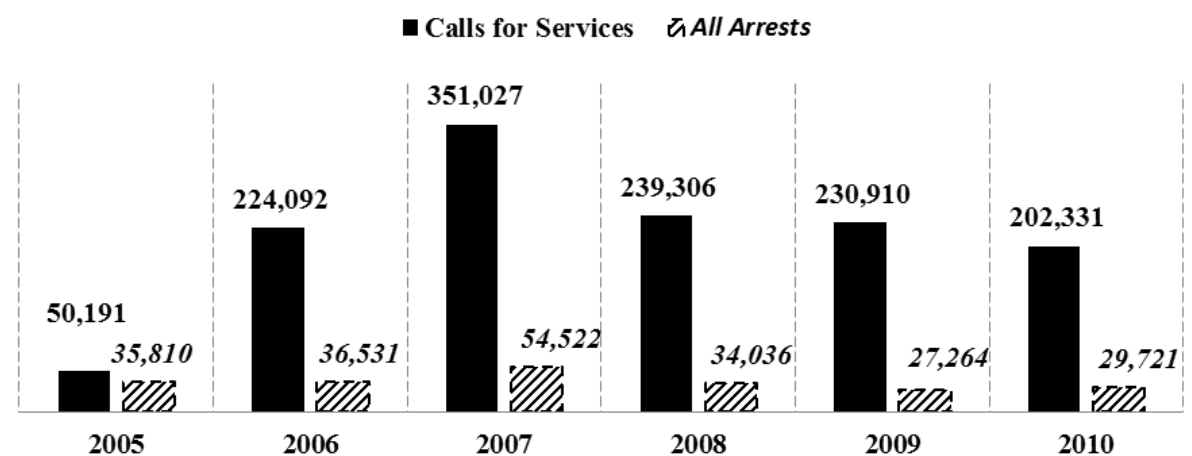


Table 1

Source: NDPS/MIS Bowman, 2010

Letters to the editor

A letter from Gary Davis, certified prevention specialist with the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services in Tuba City, Ariz.

It has been a privilege to network and collaborate with your program that has provided vital services to our families and community. I believe your program provided services in the area of coordination of services with service providers, tribal and non-tribal programs and organizations, and especially to communities. Furthermore, services in providing presentations, attending task force meetings and conferences, and assistance in crisis management, counseling, training and prevention.

Personally, I met both (case management officers) Randall and Robbin when they worked at the Western Navajo Juvenile Service Center (AKA, Tuba City Juvenile Detention Center). We first became professionally acquainted there when I worked as a correctional officer in 1999. In 2004, I worked, and currently work, for the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services and Tuba City Outpatient Treatment Center as a Prevention Specialist. We became reacquainted in the last year and became interested in providing education and awareness on challenges that families and the community face. Their involvement and participation in drug-free prevention events, especially in the methamphetamine prevention efforts, is one of the reasons why our community has shown signs of improvement. Your program has been well-received by the schools, community, service providers and colleagues.

I have particularly appreciated your program's collaboration and assistance in providing professional presentations to the youth at the Tuba City Juvenile Detention Center, where the message and the focus were on education and prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and empowering individuals to make wise choices as an important aspect to build and promote strong, healthy behaviors and lifestyles.

The presentations are based on the most current evidence-based, scientific research on drugs and substance abuse and its impact on society, and are designed to engage youth or individuals, address the needs of parents, and provide everyone, including employers, educators, health professionals, policy makers, and the media, with true-life and factual information on domestic violence, bullying, gangs, suicide, substance abuse and drugs, for example alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and methamphetamines. Topics and content are listed below.

TOPICS:

Substance Abuse Education & Prevention: Effects, signs and symptoms, dangers and consequences, process of addiction, encourages abstinence and making wise choices.

Underage Drinking & Prevention: Dangers, consequences and costs with UAD such as alcohol poisoning, unwanted pregnancy, FAS & FAE and traffic crashes.

Methamphetamine Prevention: Short and long term effects, dangers, conse-

quences and costs with meth, process of addiction, epidemiology survey and statistics, drug endangered children, treatment resources.

Suicide Prevention & Intervention: Native HOPE Trainer, ASSIST Trainer, QPR.

Relapse Prevention: Stages of relapse, addiction, understanding changes to brain, PTSD.

Domestic Violence Education & Prevention: Signs of abuse, teen dating violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, bullying

Bullying Prevention: Cause and effects of bullying, forms of bullying, cyber-bullying, and human principles. This presentation has been used to target students in pre-school and kindergarten through eighth grade and into high school, and is designed to teach and engage participants and help reduce bullying behaviors in schools, at home and in the community, and to prevent the onset of violence, school shootings, gangs, suicide and substance abuse committed by and against young people.

Family Strengthening, Parenting & Fatherhood: Challenges teens face, connecting with children, human principles, characteristics and habits of healthy teens, parenting skills, characteristics of a healthy and happy father.

Wellness Activities: Keeping mind, body and soul in balance through games that deal with coping and managing stress, life skills, conflict resolution, and anger management.

SYNOPSIS:

All presentations contain four components:

Recognizing and addressing the problem(s) and teaching protective skills for dealing with the problem(s).

Heightened awareness of the problem(s), and explores the body and mind's responses to substance abuse and how it has affected the Navajo Nation communities, specifically the community of Tuba City, Arizona.

Creation of a positive school climate, home environment and community through promotion of a "caring majority" and "parenting" which works to prevent problems such as bullying, substance abuse, suicide, gangs and domestic violence, etc.

Cultural Competence, Traditional and spiritual values.

All in all, thank you for the privilege of collaborating and networking with your program which provided convenient, quality and effective services to our families and community, with emphasis on our youth. May you always continue to display your commitment to our people in future endeavors. ■

A letter from the detention center where case management staff provide services.

During my employment here at the Tuba City Juvenile Detention Facility, case management staff has been a great deal of help in interaction with the juveniles detained in the facility. Their involvement with the court proceeding and placement, counseling and programs to motivate the youth in deterring them from delinquent ways is appreciated. The programs that have been done here at the facility are sessions with the Tuba City Boys & Girls Club, traditional sweat lodge, educational studies/activities, and counseling from other departments which give the juveniles insight to drug use and behavior issues. The program has helped with the interaction and involvement with the youth. I am looking forward to further interaction and involvement.

Thank you,

Tuba City Juvenile Detention Center



Case management and detention staff worked to provide children with a sweat lodge experience in Tuba City.

~ More Letters to the editor on p. 7 ~

Accomplishments

- * Creation of 11 positions within the Judicial Branch to provide case management services and administration of grant
- * Began offering case management at youth detention facilities in Tohatchi and Tuba City in November 2009
- * Developed a vision and a mission statement.
- * Obtained Calendar Year 2010 program reporting data and CY 2010 juvenile profile data
- * Established a baseline and determined recidivism rate at 14 percent
- * Developed and currently utilizing a case management assessment and service standards manual
- * Held monthly subcommittee meetings and quarterly collaborative steering commission
- * Assessed 696 juveniles from January 2010 to June 2011
- * Made referrals for 171 youth for supportive and direct services
- * Held 108 multi-disciplinary case staffings with service provider agencies
- * Reported 114 repeat offenders
- * Maintained an average caseload of 24 per month.
- * Secured MOUs with the Department of Diné Education and with Crownpoint and Fort Defiance Offices of Youth Development
- * MOU with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico signed by Chief Justice and BBBS Director so that matches can be made with mentors for youth
- * Drafted MOUs with Office of the Chief Prosecutor and Department of Behavioral Health Services
- * A preliminary MOU with Department of Corrections.
- * Established a quarterly newsletter and online webpages to keep our partners and the public informed
- * Drafted a collaboration plan
- * Provided public education at various venues and events
- * Formed partnerships with area resources
- * Provided input and public comment on proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Children's Code

Success stories from Case Management Offices

By Chanelle Benally, Case Management Officer/Tohatchi

A young girl had been booked into Tohatchi Youth Corrections Center. Tohatchi Case Management interviewed her. She had requested for counseling services so I referred her to Shiprock Adolescent Treatment Center. The counselor contacted me and informed me that the girl was referred to Tohatchi Behavioral Health Services. I conducted a follow-up with Behavioral Health and they said that she attended counseling and that services were provided for her.

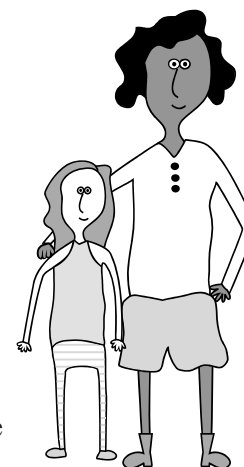
A few months went by and she came through Tohatchi Youth Corrections again. I interviewed her for a second time. She was assigned a probation officer in Shiprock, N.M. Her probation officer contacted me and wanted my help in placing her into a treatment facility. I started making referrals to centers such as Presbyterian Medical Services, San Juan Regional Health, Fort Defiance Adolescent, Shiprock Adolescent, and Mesilla Valley. Her probation officer advised me that she was working on getting the child out of her father's home and placed with her aunt. During the process of locating a treatment center, the child had a court hearing. After her court date, her probation officer contacted me and said she would give a

full report at a later date.

About a month ago, I followed up with her probation officer. She informed me that the girl was placed with her aunt. She is attending counseling services with Department of Behavioral Health Services and she is attending school. The girl is doing well.

It's a good feeling knowing that you helped a child find the rehabilitation she needed and the services she requested. It's good to know that the child is going back to school to finish her education and living with an adult who will be able to provide her with the supervision she is lacking.

This reminds me that no matter how hard you push, how many phone calls you made, how many times you contact a resource, the endless hours you put into helping a juvenile, in the end the outcome is always rewarding. You helped that juvenile who sat in your office pleading for you to help them in any way you can. ■



By Robbin Preston, Case Management Officer/Tuba City

I had a client who had been booked into the Western Navajo Juvenile Facility on a couple of different charges. He had a long history of alcohol and substance abuse as well as being an active gang member within the community. He had not been in school for almost two years and was always away from home without his parents consent or them knowing of his whereabouts.

I attended this individual's initial court hearing where it was found that under the circumstances of the charges that led to his detainment, he could not be released to anyone. At this point I made the suggestion that a residential treatment facility may be very beneficial for this individual. The prosecutor's office, the guardian, the individual's representation and his parents were all in agreement with this course of action.

With the assistance of a court order, I was able to obtain all necessary documents, as well as all residential required evaluations for placement. With the

assistance of both Tuba City Regional Health Care Clinic Mental Health Department and the Tuba City Department of Behavioral Health Services, we made a collaborative effort to get this young individual placed in a facility where he could receive the treatment and counseling necessary to help him make better choices in the future. The facility the youth was placed in has counseling on site, with a medical facility as well as an accredited scholastic program so youth can continue with their education.

This unfortunately is not an unusual incident with detained youth, but we as case managers do the best we can with what is a consent-based program. With the help of the prosecutor's office and the court, I was able to get things progressing as fast as I could and in a collaborative effort with the other departments and the school, we were able to get this youth the help that otherwise may have gone unnoticed, was needed and hopefully will make a difference in a young child's life. ■

Overview

Case management services needed for youth in detention *Cont'd. from p. 1*

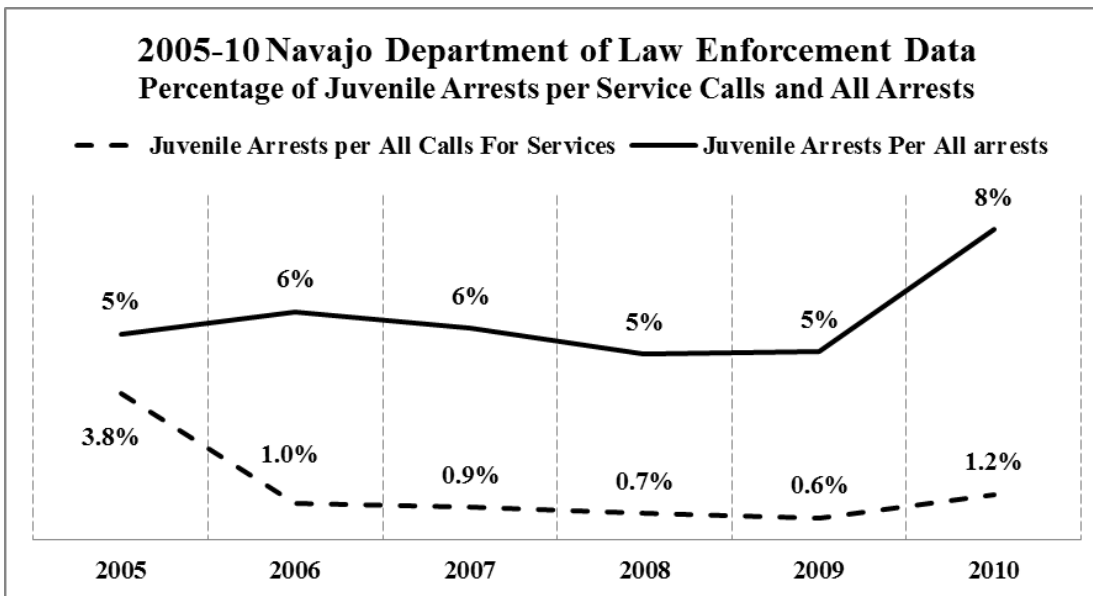


Table 2

Source: NDPS/MIS Bowman, 2010

the juvenile justice system. It is proposed that the Judicial Branch's peacemaking program will have a vital role along with an increased reliance on youth diversion programs since the Prosecutor's office may divert juveniles in lieu of filing petitions. However, another significant change is anticipated that will result in the increased responsibilities of the Judicial Branch's probation and parole services program. Probation services will be responsibility in entering into diversion program agreements and monitoring such programs. Subsequently, it is possible that an estimated 1,854 non-adjudicated juveniles may be referred to Probation services, excluding truancy cases, if there is not an anticipated increase in juvenile arrests by law enforcement. There were five different task-force meetings attended for input, there were seven public hearings attended and three public comment submittals on the proposed amendments forwarded to the Office of Legislative Services of the Legislative Branch. Still, a concern not addressed by the proposed amendments is the lack of the use of a multi-disciplinary approach where a cross section of key professions and service providers focus on individual cases involving a child and his/her parent(s) by supporting, assisting, treating, intervening, protecting, nurturing and disciplining, especially in court studies, assessments, evaluation, etc. Another concern is lack of other agencies and their legal representative being able to file petitions along with Prosecutor's office. This method in juvenile justice is being practiced in other jurisdictions including counties and states such as in Arizona and Washington.

Nábináhaazláago case management program has provided a crucial role not previously filled in the juvenile justice system by addressing the needs of youth who are arrested on a one-on-one basis. Case management officers have helped determine the individual juvenile's risk and safety factors, and guided at-risk youth on the path of possibilities, awareness, self-knowledge, self-worth and incremental successes. They advocate for youth where no advocacy had previously existed among service providers and in the juvenile justice system. They focus on local collaborative networking and awareness, and access individualized services for their clients using a multi-disciplinary approach.

The Nábináhaazláago Initiative serves hundreds of young people with important case management services and employs a total of 11 people. A request for FY 2012 supplemental budget with needs assessments has been prepared for the annual tribal operating budget funding process. It is proposed that 80 percent (964) of juveniles arrested in the Window Rock, Crownpoint and Tuba City district will be served for a total amount of \$758,629.00 (\$787.00 x 964 juveniles). 80 percent of all juveniles arrested equals 1,929 juvenile from all districts. The projected budget for case management services would then equate to \$1,518,595.00 (\$787.00 x 1,929). This is an additional \$730,494 (\$787.00 x 928) beyond the proposed FY 2012 supplemental budget. The primary cost to be covered would be the additional case management officers, supervisors and office technicians needed to expand to all agencies and districts.

The initial funding to the Judicial Branch to establish services came from an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant for \$1,362,906 in 2009. The grant was initially awarded as a two-year grant but the branch received permission to extend the grant period to December 31, 2011 due to the delay in the start-up of operations. ■

2010 Overview Navajo Nation Juvenile Justice System Judicial Case Management Program Services

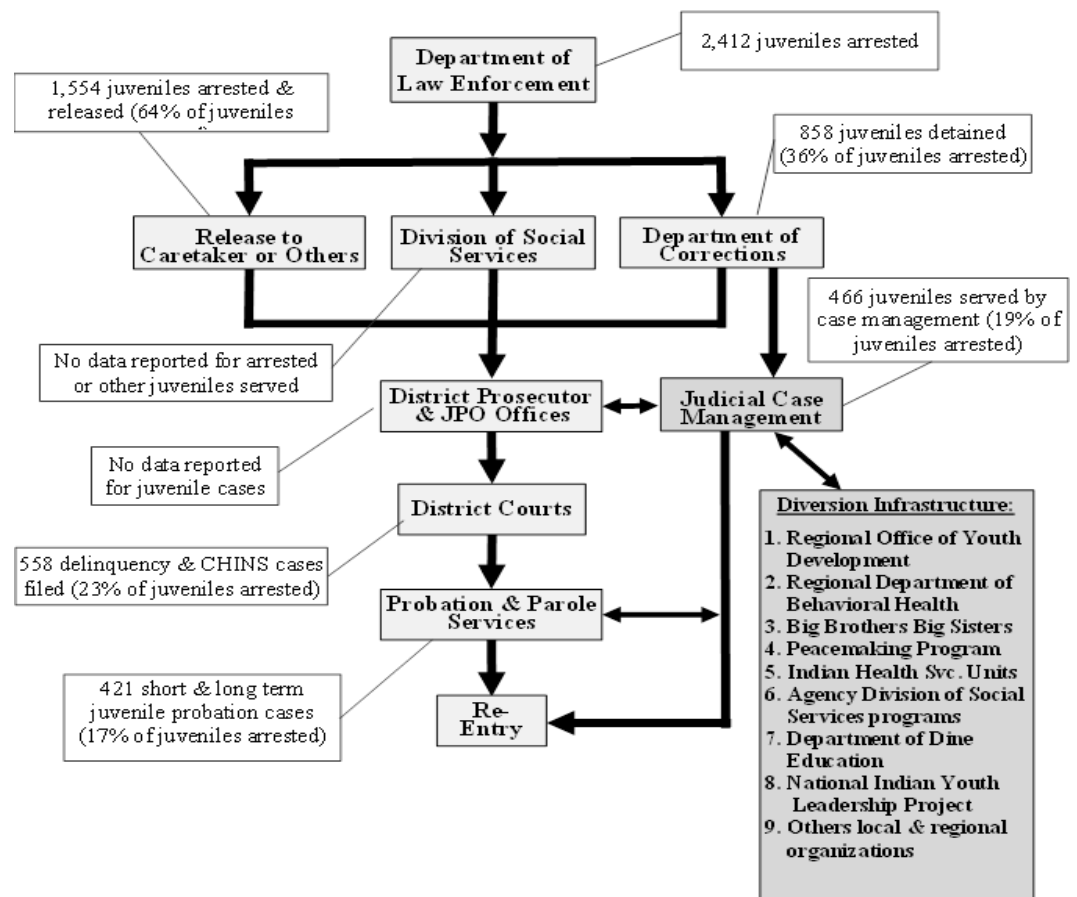


Table 3

Source: Nábináhaazláago Initiative

Partnerships

Nábináhaazláago Initiative partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico

GALLUP – The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico and the Nábináhaazláago Initiative welcomed national representatives of Big Brothers Big Sisters organization to Gallup, N.M, on May 19, 2011. Ivy Wright-Bryan and Becca Fain were conducting site visits around the United States. They visited Big Brothers Big Sisters local agencies that have been granted funding for Native American programs in an effort to focus on meeting the needs of Indian Country.

Ms. Wright-Bryan, the national director of Native American mentoring, said that Big Brothers Big Sisters is now trying to work in concepts of substance abuse and suicide prevention with its original foundation of education and juvenile justice. Ms. Wright-Bryan is a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe and has been working with Big Brothers Big Sisters since March.

Ms. Fain, an associate director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, said that one of the great things about having Ms. Wright-Bryan working with the national program is she is able to be a voice at the table in the strategic

planning for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and she is able to form partnerships with national Native American organizations that are based in Washington D.C. There are currently discussions on entering into collaborative agreements with several of those organizations, Ms. Wright-Bryan said.

One collaboration that the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico has entered into is with the Nábináhaazláago Initiative so that case management officers under the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation may refer clients to its services. The Nábináhaazláago Initiative serves youth in detention at facilities in Tuba City and Tohatchi.

The Nábináhaazláago Initiative and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico have signed a memorandum of understanding that formalizes their partnership. The MOU specifically addresses referrals from the To-

hatchi Juvenile Detention Center, which is a facility that detains youth from all over the Navajo Nation for up to 48 hours. The MOU has undergone administrative review in compliance with Navajo Nation Code requirements and Chief Justice Herb Yazzie and CEO of BBBSNNM Andrea Maril have both signed the MOU.

The agreement between BBBSNNM and the Nábináhaazláago Initiative states that Big Brothers Big Sisters will work on matching referred children to a mentor within the child's

own community, host informative meetings with Nábináhaazláago Initiative to educate the public on the benefits of mentoring, participate in Nábináhaazláago Initiative steering commission and sub-committee meetings, screen all volunteers and participate in case staffings, aftercare and program reporting.

Big Brothers was started in 1904 by a New York City court clerk named Ernest Coulter when he saw more and more kids coming through the court system. Big Sisters started when the Ladies of Charity began mentoring girls going through the New York Children's Court around the same time. In 1977, the Big Brothers Association and Big Sisters International joined to become Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.



A Big Sister is matched with a Little Sister from the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program. The partnership will allow for the programs to team up to make similar matches when appropriate.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico is a non-profit that serves children of seven counties, including McKinley County, with one-to-one mentoring. The children in the program are matched with community members who meet with them two to four times a month. There are currently 75 matches in McKinley County, according to Sarah Luginbuhl, community coordinator of the Gallup satellite office.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico is currently working on establishing a program at Tohatchi. Ms. Luginbuhl said that the program is trying to recruit more Native American mentors for the Native American children it is serving. She noted that mentoring has always been a part of the Native culture.

For more information on becoming a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, contact Ms. Luginbuhl at (505) 728-8356. ■

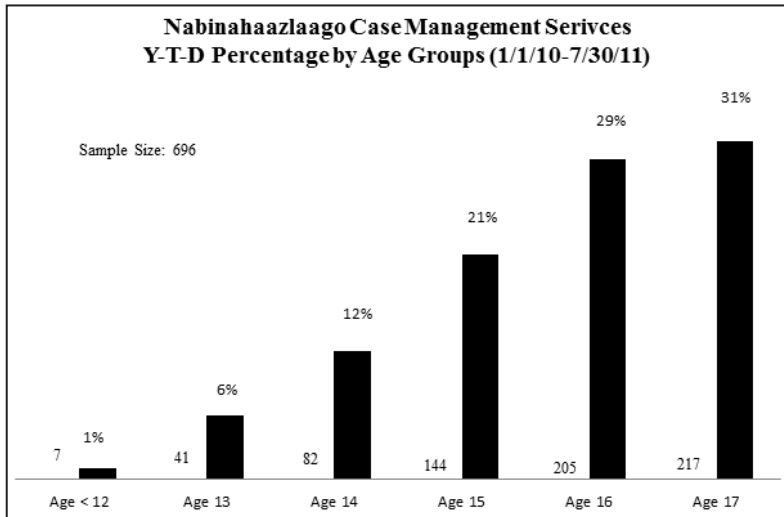


Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Northern New Mexico

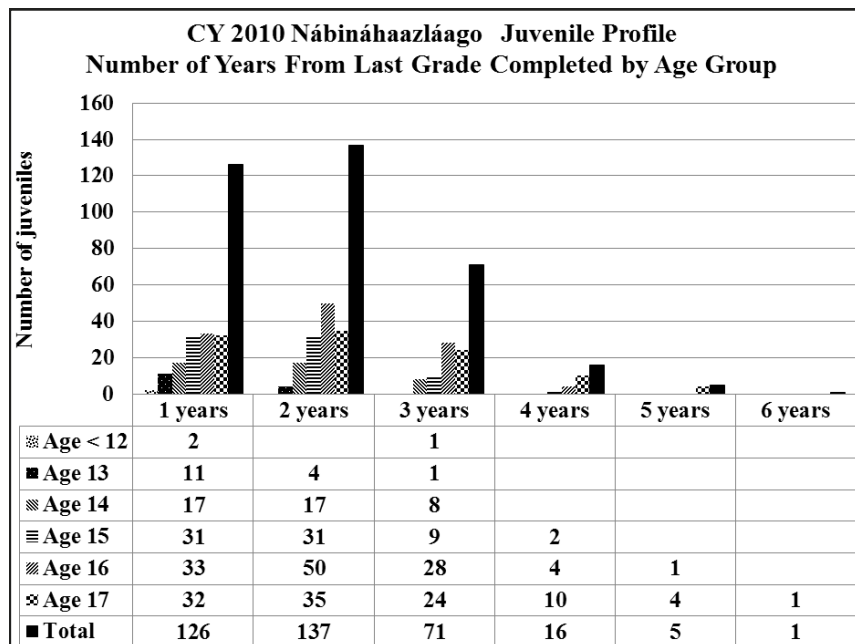
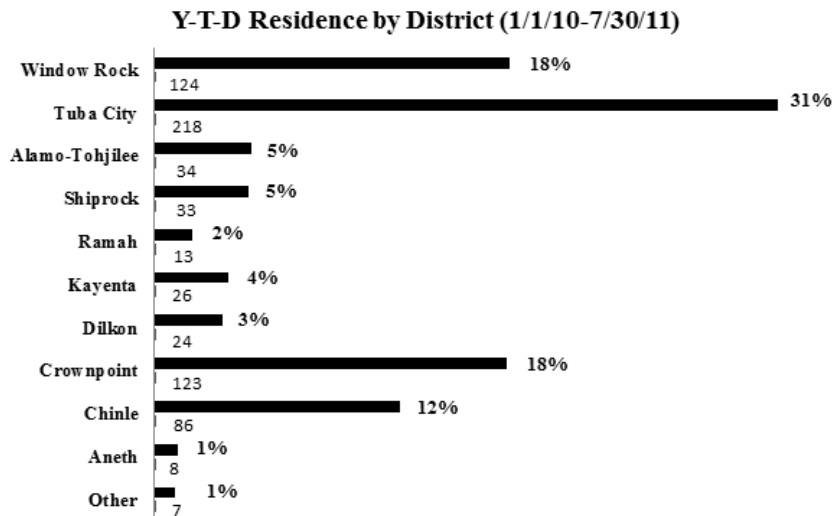
Statistics

One of the goals of the Nábináhaazláago Initiative is to collect data. This is some of the information that has been collected during the time case management services have been offered to detainees.

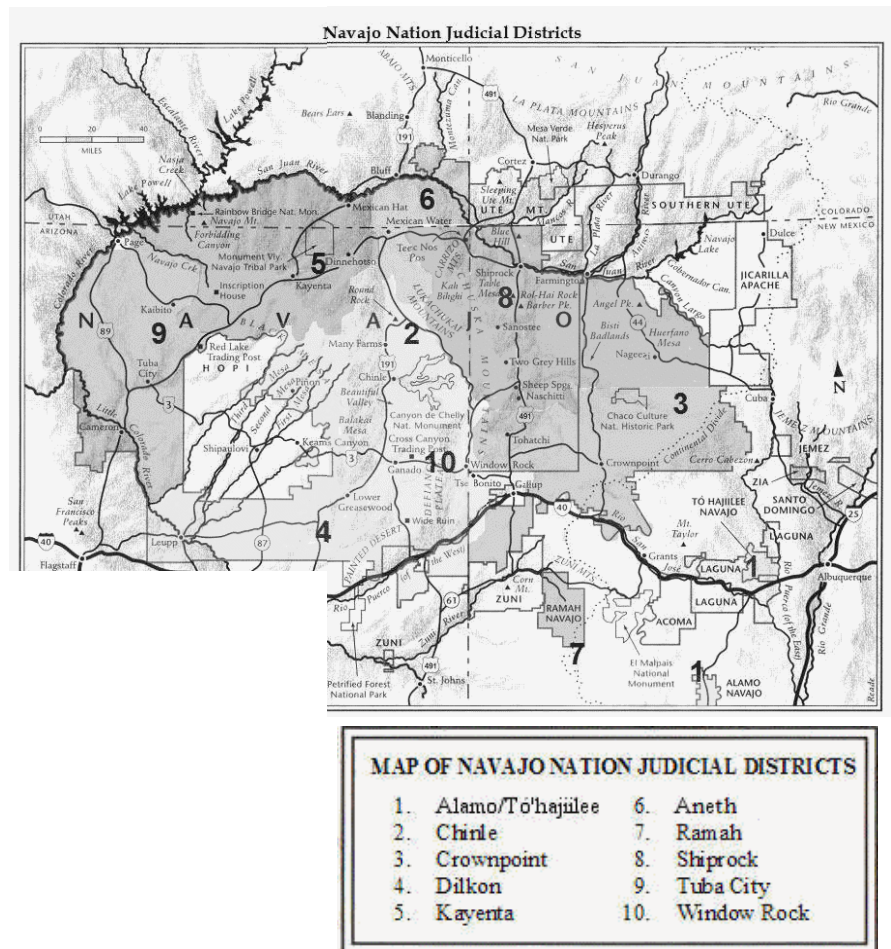
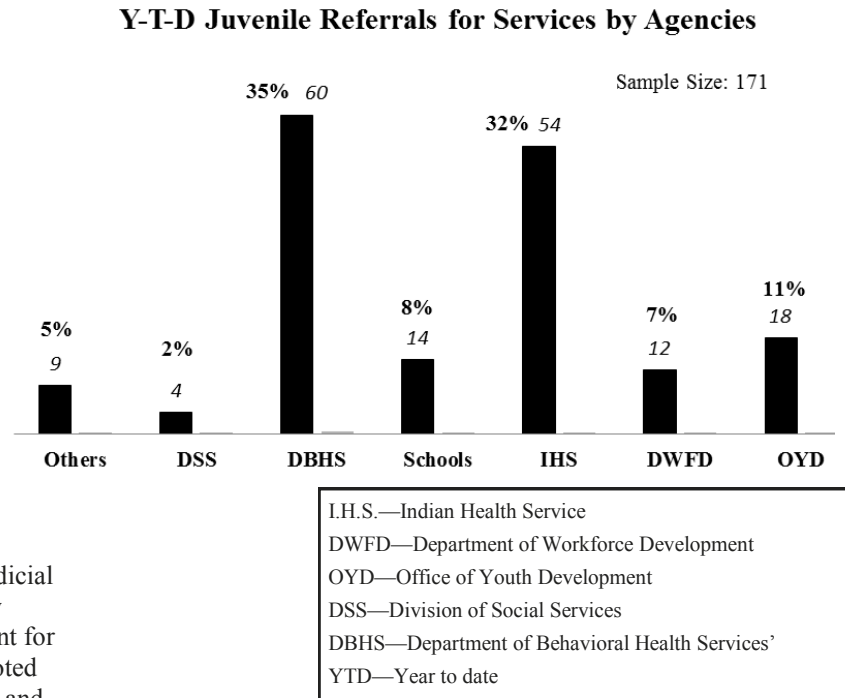
The bar graph below left shows numbers of detainees by age. About 60 percent



The chart below shows the numbers of juveniles served by Case Management by judicial district from January 2010 to June 2011. The highest numbers come from Tuba City (31%), Window Rock (18%) and Crownpoint Judicial Districts (18%). These account for 67% of youth served by Nábináhaazláago case management officers. It should be noted that the only youth detention facilities on the Navajo Nation are in Tuba City, Ariz., and Tohatchi, N.M.



are ages 16-17. The bar chart below right shows the percentage of referrals that case management officers have made for youth in detention whom sought services to help them address the underlying issues of why they end up in detention. The largest amount of referrals is made to Indian Health Service and the second largest amount is made to the Department of Behavioral Health Services.



The chart to the left shows the last grade completed by the detainees by age group and details how many years behind detainees are in school. The largest number—137—are two years behind in school and 126 are one year behind. The case management officers served five juveniles who were five years behind and one who was six years behind.

News briefs

Law and Order Committee members selected



WINDOW ROCK—The standing committee for the Judicial Branch, which the Nábináhaazláago Initiative is under, is the Law and Order Committee. The committee includes the following members (listed in the order as pictured above):

- Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau)
- Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat)
- Duane Tsinigine (Coppermine, K'áii'to, Le Chee, Tonalea/Red Lake, Bodaway/Gap)
- Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone, Greasewood Springs)
- Russell Begaye (Shiprock)

The committee is one of the five standing committees of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council. Committee assignments were approved by the Council on May 25, 2011. The committee selected Edmund Yazzie as the chairman and Alton Joe Shepherd as the vice chairman during a meeting on June 6, 2011.

The Law and Order Committee meets on Monday each week. The legislative advisor assigned to the committee is Shammie Begay and the legislative reporter is Eva Smiley. ■

Meet our new employees

Randall Tsinnie began working as a case management officer at the Tuba City case management office in February 2011. His duties include conducting intake and assessments for detained youth and referring them to resources that will help in their development. Tsinnie's interest in criminal justice brought him to work for the Nábináhaazláago Initiative.

Martha Dugi began working as the office technician for the Tuba City case management office in February 2011. She took intensive secretarial training at San Juan College and has taken classes at Diné College. Her job is to perform secretarial duties for the office and to keep statistics that the case management officers collect with intake and assessments.

Wilfreda Allen is the office technician for the Nábináhaazláago Initiative administrative office in Window Rock. She was hired in February 2011 and provides administrative support for the operations analyst and judicial liaison officer. She also helps to collect the data from the case management site offices. ■



June 16, 2011—Randall Tsinnie in his office at Tuba City

Letters to the editor

A letter from the Boys & Girls Club of Diné Nation—Tuba City Unit

Boys & Girls Clubs of Diné Nation – Tuba City Unit in partnership with the Nábináhaazláago Initiative Case Management program have provided prevention activities to youth who are detained in the Juvenile Center for the past year. Robbin Preston, case management officer for the Tuba City case management program, provided juvenile referrals to Elson Tsosie, prevention specialist for Tuba City Boys & Girls Club, as a diversion or an alternative to their serving jail time or probation. This provided another opportunity for first-time offenders to be provided prevention services and mentorship, with the hope of steering youth back into a positive direction. Through out the year services were provided to more than 15 juveniles who were referred for participation in this mentorship program. All youth were provided Club Curriculum – such as Smart Moves, Street Smarts and Passport to Manhood – and served community service for National Boys & Girls Clubs Week and at the Boys & Girls Club.

As a community service project, the participants assisted with implementing and working with the BGC members with arts and crafts, board games, recreational games, and peer-to-peer mentorship. This program was conducted to assist and support them in gaining responsibilities thorough voluntary assistance and to help them achieve their mandatory community service obligations.

Tuba City Boys & Girls Club believes that quality time spent with youth on the verge of success will result in youth who are responsible and civic-minded and will one day provide that valuable service as an adult. Tuba City Boys & Girls Club appreciates the time and valuable service case managers have provided to the Club and community youth.

*Theresa Hatathlie, Programs & Projects Specialist
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dine Nation - Tuba City Unit*

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**NÁBINÁHAAZLÁAGO
INITIATIVE**

Vision Statement

To guide a new generation of youth with the knowledge, experience, positive values and well-being to succeed

Mission

To provide youth-driven services that change attitudes and behaviors, promote community collaboration, and ensure timely services, strengthening youth and families with cultural values and promoting wellness.

Judicial Branch Vision

It is our vision that the present judicial system, consisting of an adversarial-style tribal court system modeled on Anglo courts, a peacemaking system modeled on Diné original dispute resolution methods, and Probation and Parole Services, will fully embody the values and processes of the Navajo People, including family and clan-centered Navajo values. Our justice system as a whole will truly reflect the heart and soul of the Diné. It will be one that the People recognize as their own and fully participate in the spirit of nábináháazlaago.

Judicial Branch Mission

The Judicial Branch will provide stability in the Navajo Nation government by providing court, peacemaking, and probation and parole services, to adjudicate cases, resolve disputes, rehabilitate individuals and families, restore harmony, educate the public, agencies, services and other governments in Diné bi beenahaz'áanii and protect persons and property pursuant to Navajo Nation laws, customs, traditions and applicable federal laws. Pursuant to Diné bi beenahaz'áanii, the Judicial Branch will carefully develop a justice system that fully embodies the traditional values and processes of the Navajo People.

DINÉ YOUTH & JUSTICE

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