

Diné Justice

The Official Newsletter of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

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Judicial Branch requesting funding to continue services for detained youth

The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch is seeking supplemental funding in the amount of \$598,116.82 to resume operations of the Nábináhaazláago Initiative case management services for juveniles.

The funds would allow for the program to continue to the end of Fiscal Year 2012 and employ 15 personnel to provide case management services for youth in detention.

The program allows for case management officers to speak with youth when they are detained and to help them to seek services that address the issues of why they

end up in detention.

The proposal for supplemental funding would establish offices in Tuba City, Crownpoint and Window Rock. These sites were chosen based on data that was collected during the two-year implementation phase of the Nábináhaazláago Initiative.

The program is seeking the supplemental funds from the undesignated, unreserved fund balance. According to the Office of the Controller, the balance as of Sept. 30, 2011, was \$41.9 million. Legislation No.

Cont'd. on p. 4

Chief Justice's Annual Message

The following was released by the Judicial Branch. Some sections were omitted due to space limitations. To read the annual message in its entirety, please visit www.navajocourts.org.

I am pleased to deliver the Annual Message of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation to the Navajo People.

There have been a number of issues, chief among them tribal funding from the federal government through P.L. 93-638 contracts and grants, which combined make up to three-quarters of the Navajo Nation governmental and program funding. We are told that mandatory reductions in funding are imminent. Additionally, the manner by which grant funding requests from the judiciary and justice programs substantially changed and now require a "single tribe" approach rather than *ad hoc* program by program requests. Both these developments require coordinated planning by a responsible government. Finally, expiring Judicial Branch grants in 2011 have resulted in the loss of case management staff for our youth in detention, which we have asked the Navajo Nation Council to address as a budget priority.

Building space and safety issues for our courts and programs remain outstanding issues. To date, there remains no building to house our Supreme Court and Judi-

cial Administrative staff, while the Chinle Judicial District needs a new roof and the Window Rock Judicial District staff needs to be relocated for reasons of health and safety.

There have also been a number of accomplishments in 2011, including the implementation of a new integrated case management system in our courts, probation services, peacemaking, and prosecutor offices in the Shiprock Judicial District. There has also been the successful beginning or continuation of several branch grant-funded projects oriented toward serving our rural communities through wellness and community courts in remote areas, and serving our youth by bringing traditional values and teachings through certified peacemakers in afterschool programs in our Nation's schools.

Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs

The branch ran out of its Fiscal Year 2011 general funds operating budget in May 2011 and had to operate for the remainder of the fiscal year using what was left

Cont'd. on p. 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

About us	2
2012 Justice Days	3
Report offers recommendations to reform juvenile justice	4
Statistics	5
Judicial Branch directory	12

About us

Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

The sovereign Navajo Nation has the authority to enact laws, apply its laws, and enforce its laws. The Navajo Nation Council enacts the laws; the Executive Branch executes those laws; and the Navajo Nation courts interpret and apply those laws.

The Navajo Nation courts make up the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation. The Judicial Branch is one of the three branches of the Navajo Nation government. The other two branches are the Legislative Branch, made up of the Navajo Nation Council, and the Executive Branch, headed by the President of the Navajo Nation. The Judicial Branch is equal to the other two branches.

The Navajo Nation operates a two-level court system: the trial courts and the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. Cases begin in the trial courts. Appeals of trial court decisions and quasi-judicial administrative bodies' decisions go to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, which sits in Window Rock. Individuals have their rights protected and claims settled fairly in the Navajo Nation courts. The Navajo Nation courts handle over 75,000 cases per year.

The Navajo Nation courts presently consist of ten judicial districts based on the use of Chapter boundaries. There is a district and family Court in each judicial district. The judicial districts further support community-based peacemaking services. In 1988, judicial districts in the Navajo Nation had numbered seven -- Chinle, Crownpoint, Kayenta, Ramah, Shiprock, Tuba City, and Window Rock. The satellite courts of Alamo and To'hajiilee, that had earlier been included in the Ramah Judicial District, became the distinct Alamo/Tó'hajiilee Judicial District effective April 4, 2006. The Dilkon Judicial District was also added at that time. The tenth judicial district, Aneth, was created by the Judiciary Committee on August 10, 2007, serving the northern portion of the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation judiciary has three appellate judges who sit on the Supreme Court. One appellate judge is the Chief Justice and two are Associate Justices. Seventeen trial judges preside in the district and family courts. In the judicial districts, the judges administer the courts through the court administrator. The Chief Justice supervises the judges and judicial hearing officers and heads the Judicial Branch. The Chief Justice directs the preparation of the budget, sets and implements policies, and oversees Judicial Branch operations.

The Judicial Branch Personnel Rules and an Employee Code of Conduct apply to Judicial Branch employees who are not judges. Judges work within the bounds of Title 7 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Navajo Nation Code of Judicial Conduct, Judges' Personnel Rules, various court rules, and the Chief Justice's supervision.

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.

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Send submissions and ideas for our newsletter to
karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov.

2012 Justice Days

Judicial districts holding 2012 Justice Days



April 2, 2012—Peacemaker Liaison Elaine Henderson, Probation Officer Rosella Chee, and Probation Officer Marcellus Morgan pose with their display at the Window Rock Judicial District's Justice Day.

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation is pleased to announce the Navajo Nation Justice Days for 2012. This is the 53rd anniversary of the Navajo court system. The Navajo Nation took control of its judicial system on April 1, 1959.

Justice Days at the judicial districts of the Navajo Nation celebrate the creation of the Navajo Nation court system. They give the public an opportunity to visit the courts to learn about how our justice system works. Judicial districts will be observing Justice Day with various activities that are open to the public.

Window Rock and Dilkon Judicial Districts each held their Justice Days on April 2, 2012. Window Rock Judicial District invited service providers to set up informational booths, conducted tours and held a 5K fun run.

The courts of the judicial districts will be holding Justice Day on the following dates and at the following locations:



DATE	LOCATION	INFO
April 5	Kayenta Judicial District	(928) 697-5549
	Ramah Judicial District	(505) 775-3218
April 13	Aneth Judicial District	(435) 651-3545
	Tuba City Judicial District	(928) 283-3149
April 27	Chinle Judicial District	(928) 674-2070
May 1	Crownpoint Judicial District	(505) 786-2072
May 4	Shiprock Judicial District	(505) 368-1270
May 18	To'Hajiilee Court	(505) 908-2817
May 25	Alamo Court	(505) 908-2817



April 2, 2012—Window Rock Judicial District staff provide refreshments to the public.

[See fliers from the judicial districts on p. 6](#)

News

Report offers recommendations to reform juvenile justice

In a 2011 report, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reported that the rate of America's youth in custody was 336 out of every 100,000 in 2002. Many were placed in correction facilities.

The "No Place for Kids" report (2011) by the foundation found that programs which offer counseling and treatment can help to reduce recidivism. "Programs employing therapeutic counseling, skill-building and case management approaches all produced an average improvement in recidivism results of at least 12 percent," the report states. The Nábináhaazláago Initiative provided case management services for juveniles on the Navajo Nation while it was in operation from 2009-2011. The

report further states that a better alternative is to make better use of juvenile court diversion by expanding diversions.

The report also recommends that strong data collection be used in reform efforts, in particular by measuring recidivism rates. According to the report, 12 states don't track recidivism in any way. The Nábináhaazláago Initiative began efforts to collect data on youth in detention, including recidivism rates, while in operation.

The "No Place for Kids" report may be accessed through from the Annie E. Casey Foundation at www.aecf.org. ■

Judicial Branch seeking funding (cont'd from p. 1)

0046-12 passed the Law and Order Committee on Feb. 13 with a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. It passed the Budget and Finance Committee with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed on Feb. 14. The Naa'bi'ki'yati Committee considered the legislation on Feb. 16 and recommended passage with a vote of 14 in favor and 2 opposed.

The supplemental funding is necessary because Nábináhaazláago Initiative Case Management Offices in Tohatchi and Tuba City closed as of Dec. 30, 2011. Case management services are no longer being offered by Nábináhaazláago Initiative for youth in detention sites as of Dec. 16, 2011. The Judicial Branch's Probation and Parole Services have been assigned pending case management cases.

The Nábináhaazláago Initiative was funded through a \$1,362,906 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs Program. The grant was obtained by the Judicial Branch

in 2009 and case management services began in January 2010.

The case management officers at offices at the Tohatchi Youth Correction Center and at the Western Navajo Juvenile Detention Center in Tuba City provided case management services, conducted intake assessments and provided case plans, case staffings and referrals for detained youth upon consent. From January 2010 to the end of December 2011, the program served 886 youth. While in operation, case management officers were able to help youth with referrals that included placement into treatment centers, getting them back into school and placement into temporary employment.

Among the data collected on detained youth, the following were found:

- Nearly 59 percent of those served were ages 16-17. (January 2010 to December 2011)
- About 31 percent were from Tuba City Judicial District, 20 percent were from Window Rock

Judicial District, 18 percent were from Crownpoint Judicial District and 11 percent were from Chinle Judicial District. (January 2010 to December 2011)

- 61 percent were being raised by single parents. (January 2010 to December 2011)
- 17 percent were detained for public intoxication, 16 percent for disorderly conduct, 11 percent for criminal nuisance and 10 percent for curfew violations. (January 2010 to December 2011)
- About 35 percent were referred to Department of Behavioral Health Services and 32 percent were referred to Indian Health Services. (January 2010 to June 2011)
- 53 percent of youth served experienced physical altercations with peers; 30 percent experienced bullying and 17 percent participated in gang activities. (January 2010 to June 2011) ■

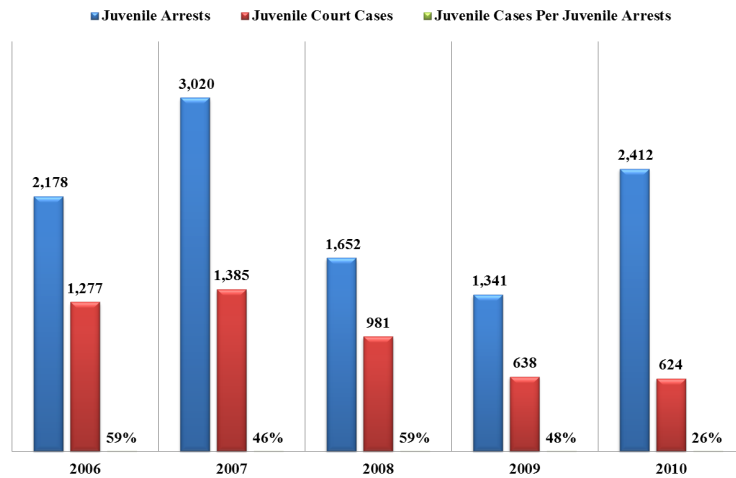
Statistics

The graphs and charts on this page reveal some of the information that has been collected through information sharing from other agencies and data collection from the Nábináhaazláago Initiative case management services.

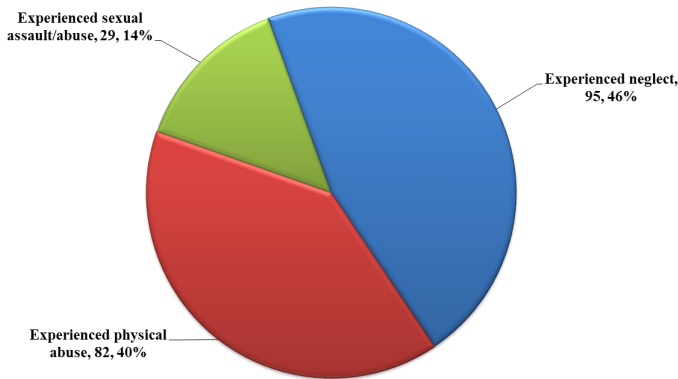
This type of information is necessary for the Navajo Nation to design programs and services for detained youth that will help them to address the core issues of why they end up in detention.

Other charts and graphs were shared in previous newsletters. The newsletters may be accessed from the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch website.

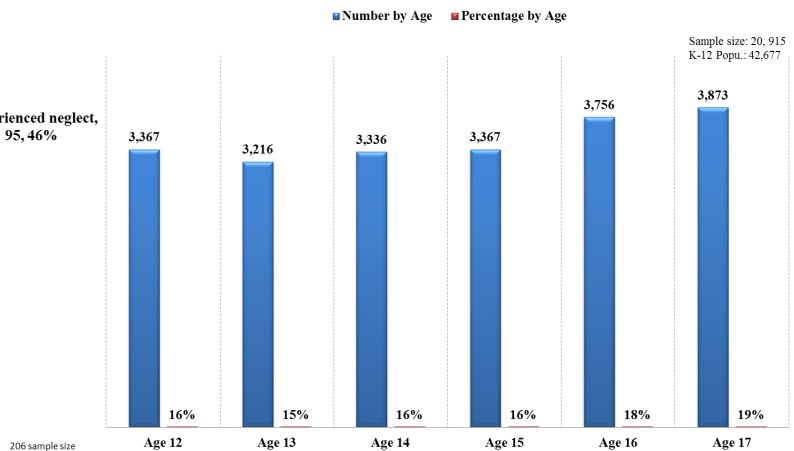
2006-10 Navajo Department of Law Enforcement & Judicial District Courts



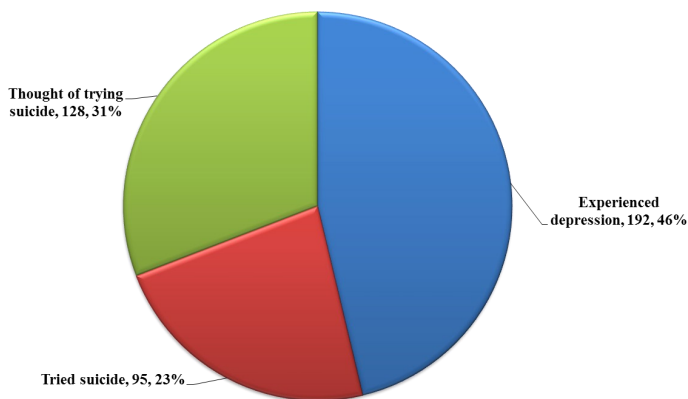
Juvenile Profile - Neglect, Abuse & Assault



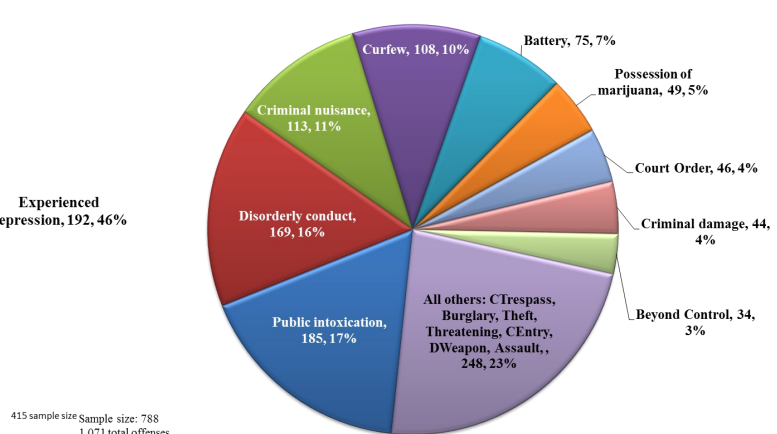
Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land 2010 Census Ages 12 - 17



FY 2010-11 Nábináhaazláago Juvenile Services Juvenile Profile - Suicide Attempts, Thoughts, Depression

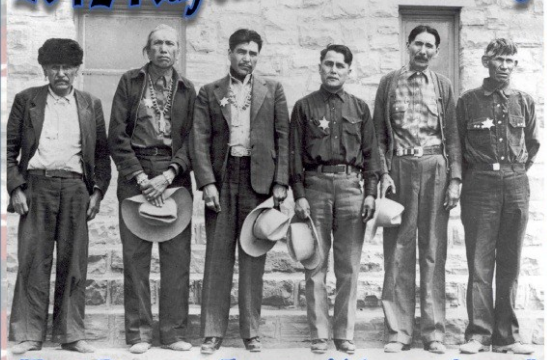


FY 2010-11 Nabinahaazlago Juvenile Services Year-To-Date Offenses



2012 Justice Days

2012 Kayenta Justice Day




"Past, Present & Future of Navajo Courts"

Thursday, April 05, 2012
10 am - 2 pm
Kayenta Judicial Complex - Kayenta, AZ

Open House at District Court, Probation Services and Peacemaking Program
* Educational Information Booths by Area Service Providers
* Refreshments and Free Luncheon

2012 TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUSTICE DAY

Protecting the well-being, welfare and safety of our communities



APRIL 13, 2012
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
REFRESHMENTS & LUNCHEON

OPEN HOUSE

2012 JUSTICE DAY


Aneth Judicial District
Aneth Community Court

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, April 13, 2012
from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Education Information Booths by Area Service Providers are held at the Aneth District Court
- Refreshments and **FREE LUNCH**

Chinle Judicial District
Annual Justice Day
Friday, April 27, 2012
"Improving Navajo Justice through Technology"



Open House from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Luncheon at 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Information Booths will be available on site throughout the day
Come one, Come all.

This is a drug free and alcohol free event. We will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items during this event.

Annual message

Cont'd. from p. 1

from P.L. 93-638 funds. While the branch has worked hard to ensure that services are delivered to the Navajo people, we are not able to plan for improvements or growth due to our limited funds and must constantly consider where and how we can realistically offer judicial services.

Therefore, we renew our request that a system be established for future budget cycles where the branch will receive a set percentage of funding allocations.

Pursuant to the resolution adopting the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2012 comprehensive budget, the Navajo Nation Council directed the branch chiefs to prioritize their unmet needs and to prepare appropriate budgets for these priorities for potential consideration of supplemental appropriations. For purposes of meeting the Council's directive, the Judicial Branch established three unmet needs as top priorities – reestablishing operations of case management services for youth in detention, relocation of Window Rock Judicial District Court staff and construction of a new roof for Chinle Judicial District. It must be emphasized that these three stated unmet needs are but the “tip of the iceberg” of the branch's overall financial shortages in meeting our mission and service goals.

Pursuant to Resolution NABIJA-09-12, the Judicial Branch has submitted a Scope of Work and budget to the Bureau of Indian Affairs that proposes to amend the Annual Funding Agreement under P.L. 93-638 and increase permanent funding to the Judicial Branch. Thus far, the branch contract under P.L. 93-638 has only funded the hiring of court clerks, leaving other goals of the Judicial Branch unfunded. We remain without construction funds for a Supreme

Court complex and Judicial Administration building. Our courts remain without a training program for Navajo/English court clerks and reporters in order to train individuals in bilingual court-related skills. While a training program exists at the University of Arizona in Tucson to provide one-time training for certified interpreters in the Diné language, there are no funds for ongoing seminars or trainings for them, nor funds to hire reporters, transcribers, or interpreters directly. We lack sufficient funding to implement a comprehensive operation and maintenance plan in branch buildings. We lack funds to provide education and outreach to the Navajo Nation public, including the development and provision of pro se pleadings through our courts. We remain without funds to publish Volume 9 of our Supreme Court opinions for 2006 onward.

We are now awaiting negotiations with the BIA-Navajo Region office. With the reductions in federal tribal funding, which we are told are imminent, it is unlikely that our needs will be met.

On December 22, 2011, the BIA did approve a one-time funding amount of \$450,000 primarily to purchase security equipment for the branch including metal detectors, security camera packages and printers for the 10 judicial districts and the Supreme Court.

Comprehensive Programmatic and Budget Planning

We have been told that imminent reductions in federal tribal funding are mandatory and will most likely be in place for the next ten years starting in FY 2013. It is our understanding that the BIA has been developing plans regarding this funding reduction that will involve consolidation of programs, workforce plan-

ning, and so forth. It is certain that programs funded under P.L. 93-638 contracts will be reduced or eliminated throughout the Navajo Nation.

Rather than wait for the BIA to present its plan as to how our programs will be reduced or eliminated, it is time for the Navajo Nation government to decide, for itself, what areas to prioritize as a reflection of our values and our vision for the role of our government. I believe there is an ideal behind the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act (ISDEAA), which established P.L. 93-638 contract funding, for tribes to be truly self-governing. There is an opportunity for tribes to make an informed decision on what areas of government they wish to fund. Having gained experience and expertise in that area, they will decide for themselves whether they wish to integrate an area into our government, then properly plan for what else the tribes would want to fund via P.L. 93-638 contracts.

Thus far, even though P.L. 93-638 funding has been available since 1976 under the Indian Self-Determination and Education and Assistance Act and there are several Navajo Nation programs that receive this funding, there has never been an overall policy-driven plan. Therefore, our programs receive their funding on an *ad hoc* basis. While each year our programs are asked to prioritize our needs, funding for these programs has never been sought pursuant to an overall policy-driven plan. It is time for the Navajo Nation government to provide such a plan in response to the coming 10-year funding reductions, and not allow the BIA to dictate our reductions and program eliminations.

Annual message

Cont'd. from p. 7

Since 2010, the federal government has also been requiring comprehensive “single tribe” programmatic and budget planning in judicial and justice applications for federal grant funding, through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS). CTAS is now the only grant funding specifically set aside for tribal justice agencies. It combines previously existing tribal grants and requires them to be submitted jointly by tribal agencies in a single packet with a single narrative that comprehensively describes the needs and the solutions. CTAS prohibits more than one application from a tribe. Agencies wishing to apply for funding in a purpose area can no longer submit a separate budget and plan, but must negotiate a combined budget and submit a single joint application for that purpose area. In short, CTAS requires a single tribe strategic plan.

On June 15, 2011, the Judicial Branch reached out to the President and Speaker to request the establishment of a central grant coordinating office after we discovered, in the 2011 CTAS application process, that the requirements of CTAS are beyond present Navajo Nation capabilities.

There are two major issues that affect both the CTAS single tribe grant application and P.L. 93-638 funding requests.

Firstly, the Navajo Nation lacks a central coordinating body with the ability to permanently fulfill the requirement that a tribe submit a single problem narrative that presents its needs in one coherent statement which funders will rely on in assessing the tribe’s overall strategic need. Secondly, there is a lack of structure in our system that clearly

sets out the body which will see that necessary work is done to ensure compliance with the many rules and requirements that must be met by funded programs, and correspondingly, a lack of technical assistance personnel to assist in contract negotiations and grant planning, drafting, and management pursuant to a single tribe strategic plan.

Navajo Nation agencies historically competed against one another in seeking separate programmatic funding, submitting separate applications for grants and in some instances, not even informing other agencies that they were doing so. CTAS and the coming P.L. 93-638 funding cuts will require far more than such efforts.

I submit that the need for such a central coordinating body is urgent for our government to continue to improve and grow on our own terms.

Construction Plans and Needs

Supreme Court Complex. Navajo Nation government-wide discussions are underway to fund capital improvement projects for governmental structures and for revenue generating projects through proposed bond financing initiatives and use of Permanent Fund monies by Navajo Nation Council standing committees. As these discussions progress, we encourage our Navajo Nation leadership to place the building of a Supreme Court facility at the center of these capital building efforts as part of our internal nation-building infrastructure development and to include the Judicial Branch in these discussions.

Though the Navajo Nation judicial system has continuously been praised as a leader in tribal court adjudication, there is no physical manifestation of the highest court of

our system in the form of a Supreme Court building. In the present discussions, there is the opportunity for our leaders to prioritize such a building which would serve the entire Navajo Nation. The Judicial Branch has already begun planning. Designs are being made for a complex that would include the Peacemaking Program and the Administrative Office of the Courts and we have withdrawn land across from the Window Rock Judicial District Court and police station. We are also currently making plans for staff to be accommodated in temporary facilities. By the time the funding is in place for capital improvement projects, we will be ready for building to begin.

The Judicial Branch will continue to seek funding opportunities for the construction of the Supreme Court complex. I have assigned staff members to put our documents through the Signature Approval Sheet review process so that we will be prepared to seek funding in the near future.

Health and Safety Issues in Window Rock and Chinle Judicial District Courthouses. Legislation No. 0049-12 has been introduced that incorporates the recommendation offered by the branch chiefs, including two projects from the Judicial Branch, which are also part of the unmet needs priorities of the branch – relocation of staff within the Window Rock Judicial District and a new roof for the Chinle Judicial District building. The funds are needed for the relocation because of a number of issues at the Window Rock District Court facility, including asbestos. We need to provide for a safe environment for our employees. The roof of the Chinle District Court building needs to be replaced so that the building will continue to be usea-

Annual message

ble for judicial services. The legislation, which also includes funding for the Executive and Legislative Branches, has been assigned to the Law and Order Committee; the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; the Resources and Development Committee; the Budget and Finance Committee, Naa'bi'ki'yati Committee; and the Navajo Nation Council.

Federal Construction Grants. Construction activities for the judicial/public safety justice facility in Tuba City began on February 21, 2011. We are anticipating that the facility

Numerous meetings and teleconferences have been held to plan and to authorize expenditures and activities for both projects. Also for both projects, the project manager is Arcadis, Dyron Murphy Architects designed the facilities, and Arviso/Okland Construction Company is the construction company. The Tuba City facility is being paid for with funds from a grant through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and a loan from KeyBank taken out by the Navajo Nation.

Justice Information Sharing and Record-Keeping

The Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project (NNIJISP) is near complete implementation in the Shiprock Judicial District, which was chosen as the "Proof of Concept" to try-out the Justware

Nation-wide in 2012. The next two sites scheduled will be the Window Rock and Dilkon Judicial Districts. Key staff members are receiving necessary training as this project continues to be implemented.

The NNIJISP project which seeks to implement the sharing of information across judicial and justice components, also addresses the challenges caused by rural locations, vast distances, personnel issues in covering the distances, and connectivity issues. To this end, the Judicial Branch has begun video arraignments and will convene video hearings also using monitors and state-of-the-art sound systems. The Dilkon Judicial District is a good example of how IP-based video conferencing technology can accelerate the judicial process by allowing judges to hold court proceedings, such as arraignments, remotely which eliminates the need to transport prisoners to and from the courthouse or requiring travel to the jail. During arraignment proceedings, the judges in the district court are able to see and hear the inmates' pleas in real-time while a clerk takes record of the arraignment session. Before deploying video conferencing software, inmates were remotely transported from Window Rock Department of Corrections to the Dilkon Judicial District and back to Window Rock DOC.

Judicial Branch staff hired for other functions have been primarily leading NNIJISP since 2007. As NNIJISP has grown, so have the complexities that now apparently require a dedicated full-time staff to handle inter-agency justice and judicial case management trainings, and integrated justice systems project management, maintenance, trouble-



The Law and Order Committee tours the construction site for the Crownpoint justice/public safety facility.

will be ready for occupancy February 8, 2013. The justice complex is expected to house the district court, public safety programs and correctional facility.

Construction on the justice facility for Crownpoint began on June 6, 2011. The complex will accommodate the district court, corrections, law enforcement, probation, peacemaking program, prosecutors and public defender.

Case Management System (CMS). The CMS, involving multiple justice components across branches, went "live" in 2011 and is pending final sign-off before roll out to all judicial districts. A survey handed out to Shiprock users yielded an overwhelmingly positive result from the users with a 41.4 percent survey return rate and above 65 percent highest ratings response. We look forward to rolling the CMS out Navajo

Annual message

Cont'd. from p. 9

shooting, and security. Because the bulk of CMS users will be the courts and programs of the Judicial Branch, the NNIJISP Steering Committee recently voted to create a NNIJISP Program within the Judicial Branch. It is expected that this full-time staff would be attached to a NNIJISP Program within the branch and be tasked to serve the justice community as a whole. The Judicial Branch encourages our leaders to adequately plan and fund such IT- and telecommunication-related initiatives. By consensus of the NNIJISP Committee, M. Teresa Hopkins was recently named the NNIJISP Project Manager.

New Grant-Funded Programs

For the 2011 CTAS grant applications, the Judicial Branch lent several of its staff to lead the applying programs in submitting a single tribe consolidated application and budget. Out of the \$2,087,145 awarded to the Navajo Nation in 2011 by the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) under the Coordinated Tribal Application Solicitation (CTAS) to fund tribal court and justice programs, a total of \$996,664 went to two Judicial Branch initiatives serving rural communities and youth.

1. Rural Community Court and Wellness Court. Aneth and To'Hajiilee/Alamo Judicial Districts were awarded \$498,298 for Aneth's Community Court Innovation Program and Alamo/To'Hajiilee's Wellness Court Program. The funds will enable Aneth to hire a resource coordinator for its community court pilot project for three years and for To'Hajiilee/Alamo to hire a care coordinator for its wellness court project for three years. The funds will also cover employee travel, supplies, and steering committee meet-

ing expenses as well as provide for the hiring of an evaluator consultant for the three-year period.

The Aneth Community Court is a pilot project of three years standing at the Aneth Judicial District in which the court is seeking to offer a coordinated approach to its cases. A coordinated approach entails participation from the community and from local resources and services. Through this project, the community gets involved and individuals are made to feel they are productive citizens of the community.

This gives offenders the opportunity to get the help they need to stop committing offenses and addresses their needs through a community-

focused approach. The grant award will now enable the project to be implemented.

A committee at the Aneth Judicial District has been appointed and is working with the Center for Court Innovation representatives from New York. The judicial district obtained support for this pilot project and is also working on engaging the community. Participants identified necessary resources and made commitments to help develop the community court for residents within the Aneth Judicial District. This pilot project utilizes an approach that employs restorative justice techniques. We look forward to seeing positive

results from Aneth Judicial District as it implements the community court concept.

2. Youth Court and Substance Abuse Prevention. The To'Hajiilee/Alamo Judicial District and the Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project also were awarded \$498,366 under the Tribal Youth Program purpose area. The grant money will be used to fund new hires for a Teen Court in that



district, develop Teen Courts and substance abuse prevention programs in the other districts, enable remote teleconferencing, and implement a communications portal which will enable data to be shared between schools, the court and participating service providers and agencies without requiring the participants to abandon their current database systems and which can be sustained at low cost.

Continuing Grant-Funded Programs

The Peacemaker Youth Education and Apprentice Program is a four-year project of the Judicial Branch's Peacemaking Program begun in

Annual message

2009 that aims to put peacemakers in schools and communities to help students and their families improve communication and deal with issues such as truancy, school drop-outs, alcoholism and substance abuse, early pregnancy, bullying and harassment by educating the students in traditional culture and values. The Youth Education and Apprentice Program is funded through a tribal youth program grant for \$450,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to provide truancy intervention and prevention for children ages 11-17.

The first year of the four-year project was committed to strategic planning and the second year was devoted to training. The strategic planning included establishing a mission statement, vision statement and a grant advisory board. The mission statement is

“Hoozhoogo Iina – Empowering youth and families to be decision makers and problem solvers using traditional methods.” The vision statement states, “The Navajo Nation will be a stronger, healthier, happier, more culturally centered people for future generations.”

In 2011, the program certified 19 peacemakers and 11 peacemaker liaisons to begin providing peacemaking and traditional counseling services in after-school programs in 13 schools across the Navajo Nation. They have completed 181 hours of training to provide services to students, including training in Navajo traditional counseling, Western counseling and therapy techniques, faith-based counseling techniques, engaging class-

room facilitation and Navajo language. Training will be ongoing. Memoranda of Agreements have so far been signed by Seba Dalkai School and Whitehorse High School and children have begun receiving services and education. Other pilot schools are Tuba City High School, Monument Valley High School in Kayenta, Kayenta Community



A training held for peacemakers as part of the Youth Education and Apprentice program

School, Shiprock Career Prep, Wingate High School, Alamo Community School, To'Hajiilee Community School, Pinehill High School, Ganado High School, Pinon High School and Window Rock High School.

The program has also put together curriculum to be used by peacemakers in the schools, including curriculum in child abuse prevention, Navajo stories and peacemaking. The curriculum was written according to standardized procedures and focuses on self-respect and respect for others. A Teacher Resource Guide has also been completed. Forms for case management, data collection, case staffing, intake, parent request waiver, checklists and referrals have been finalized. A Memorandum of Agreement between the Peacemaking Program and the Board of Education for the project schools is in process to permit school-day and after-school services in dispute resolution for chil-

dren in Family Group Decision-making and Peacemaking. Other partners are the Navajo Nation police department, Navajo Treatment Center, STAR School, Borrego Pass School, Little Singer Elementary School, Chilchinbeto Community School and Shonto Preparatory School.

Conclusion

Pursuant to our 2007 Strategic Plan, the courts and programs of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch have the following specific objectives:

- As the Navajo Nation court, peacemaking, and probation and parole system, we will ensure the continued provision of efficient, fair, and respectful judicial services.
- We will ensure access to the judicial system by the public.
- We will address the infrastructure needed to maximize partnerships across branches, agencies, and communities.
- We will develop a judicial system in accordance with Diné bi beenahaz' áanii that fully incorporates Navajo values and processes.
- We will address facilities needs.

An important part of our mission has been, and will continue to be, the development and incorporation of Diné justice concepts in the services and practices of our courts and programs. We in the branch have found, in past years, that the People appreciate the importance of the objectives and we should do everything we can to accomplish them now and in future years. Although the inadequacy of funding hampers the provision of judicial services, we in the Judicial Branch remain committed to improve and grow for the benefit of the People. ■

Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

Post Office Box 520
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Phone: (928) 871-7669
Fax: (928) 871-6866



Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Directory

Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation
(928) 871-6763



Herb Yazzie
Chief Justice

Eleanor Shirley
Associate Justice



JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

Tuba City Judicial District (928) 283-3140

Allen Sloan, Judge

Window Rock Judicial District (928) 871-6962/6984

Thomas J. Holgate, Judge

Carol K. Perry, Judge

LaVerne A. Johnson, Judge

Shiprock Judicial District (505) 368-1270

Geraldine V. Benally, Judge

Genevieve Woody, Judge

Crownpoint Judicial District (505) 786-2072

Irene M. Toledo, Judge

Kayenta Judicial District (928) 697-5549

Jennifer D. Benally, Judge

Aneth Judicial District (435) 651-3545
Irene S. Black, Judge

Chinle Judicial District (928) 674-2070/2071

Cynthia Thompson, Judge

Dilkon Judicial District (928) 657-8134
Rudy I. Bedonie, Judge

Ramah Judicial District (928) 775-3218/3512

Wilson Yellowhair, Judge

Alamo/Tohajiilee Judicial District

Alamo Court (575) 854-2668/2669

Tohajiilee Court (505) 908-2817/2818

William J.J. Platero, Judge

Administrative Office of the Courts

Office of the Chief Justice (928) 871-6866

Judicial Administration (928) 871-6762

Human Resources (928) 871-7023

Fiscal (928) 871-6900

Peacemaking Program

Administration (928) 871-6388

Tuba City (928) 283-3143

Window Rock (928) 871-6940

Shiprock (505) 368-1276

Crownpoint (505) 786-2084

Kayenta (928) 697-5502

Aneth (435) 651-3545

Chinle (928) 674-2554

Dilkon (928) 657-8136

Ramah (505) 775-3218

Alamo (575) 854-2866/2868

Tohajiilee (505) 908-2817

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Newsletter Editor: Karen Francis,
Judicial Liaison Officer

Telephone: (928) 871-7018

Facsimile: (928) 871-6761

E-mail: karenfrancis@navajonnsn.gov

www.navajocourts.org