



TAYTSUGEH OWEENGEH HEALTH COUNCIL (TOHC)

MISSION: Advocate, Assist, and Coordinate for the Health and Wellness of the Taytsugeh Oweengeh Community, and to advise the Governor, Tribal Council, and the Health and Wellness Division on all Health and Wellness matter affecting the community.

PRIORITY ISSUES: COVID-19 SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, SUICIDE, & TEWA LANGUAGE.

TIMELINE: Tesuque Health Council formed in August 2017 and has been active for 4 years and 9 months, however, due to COVID-19 it was inactive from August 2021 to February 2022, and resumed in March 2022 and will continue to with identified goals and objectives moving forward.

MEMBERS: Tesuque Health & Wellness Division Director, Interim Health Coordinator, Te Tsu Geh Oweengeh Community School Principal, Tewa language staff, Tesuque Police Chief, Tesuque Judge, Youth Coordinator/Prevention/ICWA, Library, Fitness staff, Community Health Representative, Senior Program Manager, and Emergency Management staff.

KEY PARTNERS: NMDOH, AASTEC, ENIPC, NMAHC, DOH-CHWI, & TESUQUE TRIBAL COUNCIL

INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS ISSUES: 1) Address COVID-19 impacts to our Community: community lockdown during surges, informational flyers on testing and vaccinations, informational flyers on COVID-19 safe practices; 2) Continue with Virtual Cultural Activity Classes, Virtual Fitness Challenges, Virtual Tewa Language Classes & more; 3) Support Youth Coalition with virtual meetings, trainings and conferences that provided a safe environment and to be empowered to make healthy choices, identify with their ancestral lands, culture, and language; and 4) Provided two food distribution events, one Holiday Feast meal-to-go event, and two PPE distribution events; in addition to additional food/PPE home delivery distributions to our Elders.

INITIATIVE SUCCESS: 1) Identified people that youth and adults can talk to for support services; 2) Provided virtual services to address mental health and suicide; 3) Enhanced collaborations with internal and external partners to support COVID-19 initiatives; 4) Provided youth a chance to be mentors; 5) Provided access to virtual services to address help substance abuse services; 6) Provide information via flyers and community email distribution list on COVID-19 safe practices, testing events and vaccination events; and 7) applied for and received funding to establish an Emergency Management Department to assist with COVID-19 planning and mitigation efforts.

CONCLUSION: TOHC continues to apply all training education and skills to adapt to a virtual reality due to COVID-19: by sustaining internal/external relationships, raise awareness, expand our safety net, secure funds, voice our Community concerns/issues/needs, while sustaining our culture, language, and way of life for future generations. Thank you for your support.