

CHUSKA HEALTH COUNCIL

What?

- THC's Public Health Department developed the Chuska Health Council or CHC in 2014 after the inception of Chinle and Pinon's Health Councils in 2013.
- The CHC is a local coalition established to empower communities to improve health and quality of life through community health needs assessments, cross training and other mitigations while fostering a reciprocal partnership at the local level.
- CHC members connect monthly and the location of the meetings alternate at one of the four chapters.
- PH Department's role is to serve as advisors to the CHC. The aim is to appoint officers (i.e. Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary) and to facilitate a "hand-over" so the community can take ownership and initiate community-led projects.
- CHC Core Group is a sub-committee under CHC. The group meets monthly to discuss the direction of CHC and to assess its development quarterly.

Why?

- To form and strengthen community partnerships
- To avoid the duplication of program services
- To identify local strengths and resources to build upon
- To effectively address community health concerns
- To gather data/information about our local health
- To review and analyze this data and prioritize issues

Where?

The CHC serves Tsaiile/Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Rock Point, and Round Rock communities. The Chinle Agency Improvement Team serves Chinle, Cottonwood, Low Mountain, Many Farms, Rough Rock, and Nazlini communities. The Pinon's Dzil Yijiin Council serves Pinon, Black Mesa, Blue Gap, Hard Rock, Forest Lake and Whipporwill communities.

Who?

CHC membership extends to community members, service programs, youth ambassadors, faith-based organizations, businesses, schools/college, and other diverse sectors. Members act as local champions and are to complete a registration form. The current barriers to recruiting members are rural isolation, retention, and recruiting "hard to reach" groups (i.e. schools and faith-based organizations).

What does CHC hope to accomplish?

- Ongoing recruitment of diverse members within the Chuska region
- Finalize and Implement the CHC By-Laws
- Elect and Appoint Officers (i.e. Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary)