

Greetings Health Council Members and community partners!

From the Lincoln County Community Health Council (LCCHC) outgoing chair Sergio Castro:

As we approach the end of the year 2023 and look forward to the new year 2024, I find it amazing that the LCCHC will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its birth. I think it is appropriate to take a quick stroll down memory lane and look not only at the past, but also the present and the future of this amazing organization.

In 1994 Wanda De Figueroa established the Lincoln County Maternal Child Health Planning Council and in 1996, a group of Lincoln County residents established the Health and Wellness Board with the goal to help address health and wellness challenges in our community. In 2000, these two organizations merged and rebranded themselves into what is now the Lincoln County Community Health Council. The LCCHC was officially recognized by the Lincoln County Commission on November 30, 2000, and again September 19th, of this year.

From its inception, the LCCHC saw the need to come together as a group to tackle health issues in Lincoln County, and eventually Mescalero, to include health disparities, food insecurity, access to care, transportation, mental health, substance misuse, suicide, diabetes, cancer, and many other social determinants of health. We owe a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of individuals who have been and continue to partner with the LCCHC throughout the years.

I want to recognize Maury St. John, who for many years carried this organization and championed its purpose and goals. She passed away on August 7, 2020, and she is now memorialized through the Maury St. John Memorial Scholarship which is given to a deserving student majoring in nursing, as she was a caring nurse until her retirement.



Sitting: Debra Butts, Alyssa Linden, Laura Wilson, Carol Bleu
Standing: Alisha Westmacott, Sergio Castro, Julie Cintron, Bonnie Torrez, Dave Tomlin, Andrea Fernandez, Shannon Dictson
On Zoom: Joann Palomino, Desarae Payne, Laurie Dudek, Elma Orosco

In 2023, the Lincoln County Community Health Council continued its legacy to serve the residents of Lincoln County and Mescalero through its many initiatives including the Health and Wellness Guide, "Health Mind, Healthy body and Healthy Soul" annual health fair, Maze of Life, Suicide Prevention Glow walks, Mescalero Food Pantry and Distribution, Substance Misuse and Education in the schools, Signs of Suicide education, QPR training, the annual "Pink Soccer" game for Breast Cancer Awareness, CHANGE scholarships, CDC/Kellogg and DOH initiatives to tackle vaping among our youth, and 100% Community, among many others.

In 2024, the future is bright for this organization and for our incoming Chair, Shannon Dictson who brings many years of experience as a prior Chair and member of the LCCHC. Shannon will continue the legacy and work to tackle the challenges related to the social determinants of health in Lincoln County to make our community a healthy place to live. Let me be the first to welcome Shannon back as our leader, and also the first to wish a Happy 30 th Birthday to the Lincoln County Community Health Council!

If you would like to be part of this great organization and would like to make a difference in the lives of others, please volunteer and join us.

Please contact us at: info@lincolncountyhc.org or go to our website www.lincolncountyhealthcouncil.org

View the 2024 Health & Wellness Guide online:

- Region IX Education Cooperative** | Rec9nm.org
- Ruidoso Municipal Schools** | www.ruidoso.k12.nm.us
- Village of Ruidoso** | www.ruidoso-nm.gov
- Ruidoso Chamber of Commerce** | www.ruidosonow.com



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To promote and strengthen the health, well being, and quality of life of Lincoln County and Mescalero residents.
 -LCCHC Mission Statement.

The Lincoln County Community Health Council is a collaborative effort by service providers and community members that promotes cooperation and networking among agencies providing community and health related services throughout Lincoln County, NM.

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