EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 001-19

PARTICIPATE IN THE “BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE” INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS SUICIDE PREVENTION

THE NAVAJO NATION
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 001-19

JANUARY 22, 2019

WHEREAS:

1. The President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (A);

2. The President shall have the enumerated power of issuing an executive order for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);

3. It is the policy of the Navajo Nation that any individual who, due to a physical or mental illness or disorder, is a threat to the health or safety of themselves or others, should receive appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment and the principal of k’é (respect, solidarity, compassion and cooperation) shall be applied at all steps of the civil commitment, evaluation, treatment process, and reintegration of the afflicted person into the community. 13 N.N.C. §2101(A)(C);

4. The President of the Navajo Nation, and all divisions, departments, offices, programs, enterprises and entities of the Navajo Nation shall work together to develop a health civil commitment process that meets the needs of the Navajo People through the most effective and efficient use of health care resources available to the Navajo Nation. 13 N.N.C. § 2103(A);

5. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. §1005(C)(14).
THEREFORE:

I, Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation and I, Myron Lizer, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in us hereby issue the following order:

1. Continue to support the “Building Communities of Hope” Initiative, by restoring hope back into our communities and by organizing the Navajo Nation Government to improve suicide prevention awareness, response, and postvention.

2. Suicide Prevention Training will be required for all Navajo Nation Employees, this will include:
   a. The Staff Development and Training Center will implement the “Question, Persuade, Refer” suicide prevention training into the new employee orientation and provide the training regularly throughout the year to educate employees on recognizing the signs and symptoms of suicide.

3. The Sunday through Saturday surrounding World Suicide Prevention Day, the week of September 10th annually shall be declared “Navajo Nation Suicide Prevention Week” in conjunction with National Suicide Prevention Week. This week shall raise awareness and education on suicide prevention and will include:
   a. Divisions, Departments, and Programs to host, participate and initiate suicide prevention activities.

4. Support the suicide prevention efforts across the Navajo Nation to provide prevention education, activities, and or trainings to the people.

5. The Navajo Department of Health, Division of Social Services, Division of Public Safety, and Department of Diné Education shall participate and contribute to the “Building Communities of Hope” Initiative. All other Divisions, Departments, and Programs, as requested, shall share information and cooperate in the implementation of “Building Communities of Hope.” This will include:
   a. Collaborate and coordinate with schools, non-profit, faith-based, traditional, tribal, federal, and national organizations in implementing this initiative, such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and other organizations; and
   b. Continue to support the development of Postvention strategies in each agency.

6. Continue “Building Communities of Hope” media campaign with advertisements, brochures, posters, and cards to provide information to the People such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
7. Henceforth, all Divisions, Departments, and Programs are directed and shall be required to utilize and post the “Building Communities of Hope” poster in a visible location at Navajo Nation Government Buildings and Chapter Houses. The poster includes the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and information on where people can seek help.

The Division, Department, and Programs Directors and Chapter Managers are responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with this order.

Consistency with other laws. The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the people.

EXECUTED this 22nd day of January, 2019

Jonathan Nez, President

Myron Lizer, Vice-President

ATTEST:

Cherie Espinosa, Acting Deputy Attorney General