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# The Connection, Volume 5, Issue 02, Spring 2007

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# THE CONNECTION

Community Advisory Council

Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring 2007

## Zuni School Healthy Lifestyles

Vinton Zunie, BS, BA, CAC Member

The Zuni School Healthy Lifestyles Program was implemented in 2002 under the Direction of Mrs. Ruby Wolf and is geared towards the education and prevention of type II diabetes among Native Americans. This program is not only having a positive impact locally but is gaining national attention as an innovative and effective collaborative health initiative. The program was implemented as a result of an agreement between the Zuni Public School District and the Pueblo of Zuni to educate the student population regarding prevention of diabetes and related issues like obesity, overweight, and cardiovascular problems that are increasing at an alarming rate among Zuni people.

Six program staff members are assigned to all the public schools, including two private parochial schools that recently bought into the focus of prevention and are now implementing agreements to advocate program services. Program staff members provide diabetes prevention activities under the supervision

of certified instructional staff informing students about how to prevent health problems through exercise and a healthy low fat diet. In addition to these classroom presentations, the program provides a variety of before and after school programs, such as spinning, aerobics, conditioning programs for school athletics, swimming, basketball

leagues, softball leagues, Little League baseball, monthly 5K walk/run programs and Health Fairs throughout the year. Although Zuni School Healthy Lifestyles was set up to target the student population, many programs are open to all members of the community from preschool to Tribal Elders. One strong aspect of the program that co-sponsored with their partners is a monthly event entitled "Your Life's Direction." This event provides various opportunities for physical activity for all age groups in the community and has been averaging about 1,000 participants per event. The program includes a "Slam Dunk Diabetes" basketball

program designed exclusively for employees of the community, including the Governor and Tribal Council, school district administrators, businesses, enterprises, and educators representing the public and private sector.



Carleton Albert Jr., Zuni Middle School diabetes classroom presentation.



Students & Staff at A:shiwi Elementary Summer School Program.

Vinton Zunie, Coordinator of the program, indicates that the program is a collaborative effort between the Zuni Tribal Administration, the Zuni Public School District, the Indian Health Service, private schools and business partnerships within the community. Mr. Zunie is also a member of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) for UNM's Prevention Research Center which supports

*Continued on Page 7*



## New Mexico HIV Programs

*Lonnie Barraza, MS Ed, CAC Member*

The HIV Education Program is designed to guide and provide technical assistance to school personnel, communities and youth serving agencies in HIV/Sexuality education. The HIV Education Program is housed within the School & Family Support Bureau (SFSB) at the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). This placement allows for coordination and collaboration of the HIV Education Program with the NMPED's school health initiatives. In addition, the HIV Program works closely with other county and state collaborative efforts with community based-organizations to help strengthen HIV prevention efforts including University of New Mexico, New Mexico HIV Community Planning Action Group, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board (AAIHB), Governor's Commission on AIDS, and New Mexico Healthier Communities to list a few. These collaborations are important for addressing the continuing need to develop and tailor sexuality and HIV education curricula to targeted populations of New Mexico. NMPED has a regulation that governs policies to be implemented by local school districts with regards to students infected with the AIDS virus, provides for appropriate curricula regarding the AIDS virus, and requires community involvement in the development of policies and the review of instructional materials.

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TITLE 6 Primary and Secondary Education  
CHAPTER 1 Public School Administration  
PART 6 Health and Safety  
SUBPART 2 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

### POLICIES:

8.1 Each school district shall implement a policy that will ensure that all students infected with the AIDS virus have appropriate access to public education and that their rights to privacy are protected. (12-31-98)

### CURRICULA:

9.1 Each school district shall provide instruction about AIDS and related issues in the curriculum of the required Comprehensive Health Education Program to all students in the elementary grades, in the middle/junior high school grades, and in the senior high school grades. (12-31-98)

For further information on the NMPED HIV Program, please feel free to contact Lonnie Barraza, HIV Program Administrator, at 505-222-4742.



**Lonnie Barraza**

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION  
AND DISEASE PREVENTION  
  
New Mexico's Prevention Research Center  
  
<http://hsc.unm.edu/chpdp>

# Public Health Heroes Honored

Linda Beltran, MS

In conjunction with nation's second annual National Public Health Thank You Day, the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center (UNM PRC) acknowledged the members of partner organizations in New Mexico communities and statewide organizations who participate in the UNM PRC Community Advisory Committee.

The UNM PRC Community Advisory Committee assists the UNM PRC to address the health promotion and disease prevention needs of New Mexican communities through participatory, evidence-based, health promotion and disease prevention research.



**UNM PRC Community Advisory Committee members**

Honored at a ceremony on the UNM Health Sciences Center Campus were: photograph - left to right:

**Carol Johnson** – Santa Fe

**Vinton Zunie** – Pueblo of Zuni

**Dr. Nat Cobb**, Indian Health Service – Albuquerque Area Office

**Marjorie Werito**, Indian Health Service – Crownpoint

**Chenoa Stilwell-Jensen**, Envision New Mexico – Albuquerque

**Dr. Catherine Kinney**, Chair of New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council – Santa Fe

**Dr. Susie John**, Teen Life Center – Shiprock

**Dr. Loretta Cordova de Ortega**, UNM Pediatrics Interim Chairman

**Anna Rose Jones**, Crownpoint Health Care Facility – Crownpoint

Community Advisory Committee members not in the photograph include:

**Frank Morgan** – Albuquerque

**Lonnie Barraza**, New Mexico Public Education Department – Albuquerque

**Dr. Susan Baum**, New Mexico Department of Health – Albuquerque

**Theresa Clay**, Indian Health Service – Albuquerque Area Office

**Linda V. Garcia**, Dine' College Shiprock Campus–Shiprock

**Yvonne Davis** – Albuquerque



**Chenoa Stilwell-Jensen receives award from Dr. Loretta Cordova de Ortega, UNM Pediatrics Interim Chairman**

Join the University of New Mexico, Research!America , the American Public Health Association, Association of Schools of Public Health, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and National Association of County & City Health Officials in saying thank you to the individuals who work tirelessly everyday assuring your water is safe to drink, your day care centers are clean, and your children receive the immunizations they need.

## About the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center

Interested individuals may find more about the Center at <http://hsc.unm.edu/chpdp/>.

## About Research!America

Research!America is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make medical and health research—including research to prevent disease, disability and injury and to promote health—a much higher national priority. Their Prevention Research Initiative, funded by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, works at the state and national levels to build greater support for prevention and public health.



# Connecting with the New Mexico Department of Health

Linda Peñaloza, PhD

The New Mexico Prevention Research Center (NM PRC) has a long history of connection with the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH), and over the years has coordinated our mutual interests and complementary expertise to achieve both better practice and better research in the area of chronic disease. The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) is working with the CDC Prevention Research Centers Program to emphasize this connection as a key goal of the program.

It has been my privilege since joining the NM PRC to work closely with several bureaus in the DOH to develop exciting and important evaluation and research programming. Initially I worked with the DOH Tobacco Use Prevention and Control (TUPAC) program, working with them to develop a web-based statewide evaluation program. Over the years, this connection led to development of several other evaluation databases, training of TUPAC staff and contractors, and consultation on evaluation projects and analysis of existing data sources. It also led to a multi-year research program on the impacts of tobacco on specific populations and tobacco-related health disparities. The state of New Mexico committed millions of dollars in tobacco cessation and prevention programming around the state, and it is rewarding to be able to help identify impacts of these programs on the citizens of the state.

A second important connection between the NM PRC and the DOH is the design and conduct of the public health surveillance project called the New Mexico Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (NM YRRS). We conducted this survey in the high schools across New Mexico in 2003 and 2005. This spring (2007) we are conducting this survey in the middle schools as well, and will conduct the survey again in the high schools next fall (2007). The NM YRRS measures youth risk behaviors and resiliency factors affecting their health in areas such as tobacco use, alcohol or other drugs, sexual behavior, violence, physical activity and nutrition. The aims of this surveillance tool are to monitor priority health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth in New Mexico and to enhance the capacity of schools and



Linda Peñaloza

communities to design, implement and evaluate their school health programs and curricula. This survey is the primary youth surveillance tool in New Mexico and is used extensively by the NM Department of Health (NM DOH) and Public Education Department (NM PED) as well as other health agencies, community groups, and schools.

We partner as well with Chronic Disease Bureau's Comprehensive Cancer program to help refine and evaluate the New Mexico Cancer Council's Cancer Plan, a document that will be coming out this spring, and addresses statewide cancer goals through 2011. Additionally we partner with the Bureau's Arthritis, Osteoporosis and Healthier Weight Unit to develop evaluation tools useful to their obesity prevention programs. Both of these ongoing partnerships were managed by Dr. Leslie Cunningham-Sabo until her departure at the end of 2006, but are continuing under my supervision.

As part of my connection with the DOH, I am involved in a number of public health committees, including:

- Tobacco Prevention Coordinating Council (TPCC)
- Tobacco Prevention Coordinating Council Executive Committee
- Chronic Disease Prevention Council
- American Cancer Society Tobacco Control Team
- CDC/OSH Tobacco Control Leadership Forum
- American Cancer Society Tobacco Control Team
- Tobacco Prevention Coordination Council: Evaluation Advisory Workgroup
- New Mexico Cancer Council
- New Mexico Cancer Council Executive Committee
- New Mexico Healthier Weight Council
- New Mexico Healthier Weight Council Executive Committee
- New Mexicans Concerned about Tobacco (NMCAT)
- Stop Tobacco on My People (STOMP)
- Tobacco Free Albuquerque
- Smoke-Free UNM Health Sciences Center Campus Committee

The close communication between the NM PRC and the New Mexico DOH is rewarding, as both groups work together to develop constructive solutions to public health issues affecting the entire state. We look forward to many more years of fruitful partnership.

## PRC Staff Updates



Lauren Fowler Young

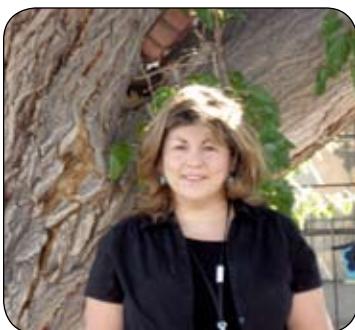
**Lauren Fowler Young** is a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a BA in Spanish. She was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is an affiliate of the Choctaw and Creek nations of Oklahoma. Lauren and her husband, John Chapman Young, "Chief," recently married in Hong Kong, China. Chief is from Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and attends the University Of New Mexico School of Law; he is a member of the Pawnee, Kiowa, and Delaware nations of Oklahoma. Lauren currently works for the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at UNM as a Medicaid Project Coordinator for the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Teen Centers. Lauren also attends UNM where she is pursuing classes that concentrate on Education, Diversity and Policy at Higher Ed institutions.

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**Darlene Gray-Scott**, UNM dietetic intern, 2001 graduate of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Darlene came to New Mexico to complete her studies in Nutrition at UNM. She is highly motivated to learn more about UNM and the Albuquerque community. She has finished the first nine week rotation at UNM's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, where she has participated with the Cooking with Kids project. Under the excellent guidance of Dr. Leslie Cunningham-Sabo, Darlene will have a greater understanding of the role of the CHPDP at Health Science center, UNM and the community at large.



Darlene Gray-Scott



Gloria Blea Johnson

**Gloria Blea Johnson**, licensed social worker currently provides therapy to students and their families with the Laguna-Acoma Center and To'Hajilee Teen Center. Gloria, a native New Mexican with roots extending eight generations, received a BA in Criminology and a BA in Psychology from the University of New Mexico and an MSW from New Mexico Highlands University. Gloria has been working with the Teen Centers since January 2004 as the primary clinician providing therapeutic services to adolescents and their families at Laguna Acoma High School. Services include individual, group, and family therapy, utilizing a variety of culturally appropriate interventions. Her clinical interests include working with minority clients to promote social change and the empowerment of families and children, particularly in the areas of intimate partner violence, trauma, and substance abuse.

CHPDP is proud to announce that our very own, **Gloria Blea Johnson**, was awarded the UNM Department of Pediatrics 2006 staff award in December at the department holiday party. Gloria was nominated by the Teen Center Program Manager Peou Lakhana, Clinical Director Lynn Abeita, and Director Sally Davis. Gloria was honored for her outstanding contributions to the Department of Pediatrics through her work at the Laguna-Acoma Teen Center and the To'Hajilee Teen Center.



Peou Lakhana, Gloria Blea Johnson and Lynn Abeita



# UNM HSC Research Incubator Building Open House

Elverna Bennett, BA

Research Incubator Building (RIB) Open House & Research Poster session was held on Friday, September 29, 2006, "highlighting research conducted at the UNM Health Sciences Center". The Research Incubator Building houses several departments including the Department of Pediatrics - Prevention Research Center, UNM College of Nursing and UNM College of Pharmacy - Pharmaceutical Sciences Division and UNM School of Medicine- Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Department of Internal Medicine. There were over 40 poster presentations from several different research projects within the HSC RIB components presented their posters.

The UNM Prevention Research Center staff presented 11 posters, they were as follows:

- **Linda Beltran**, MS, Logic Model for UNM PRC;
- **Elverna Bennett**, BA, Participatory Action for Healthy Lifestyles, Pathways, Dissemination of Pathways using the Internet & Community Based Training;
- **Leslie Cunningham-Sabo**, PhD, Cooking with Kids;
- **Lisa Marr-Lyon**, PhD and **Eugene Tsinajinnie**, BS, A Participatory Approach to Improving Evaluation Instruments among American Indian Family Programs in the Southwest, An Evaluation of the DARE to Be You Program among American Indian Parents in the Southwest, "Keeping Family Traditions" with American Indian Youth in the Southwest, Predictors of Academic Achievement Among Youth in New Mexico a Risk and Resiliency Approach, and

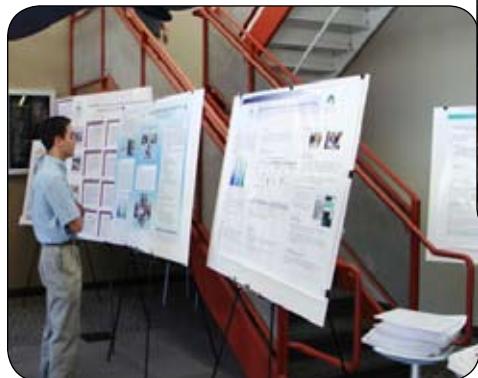
Pyschometric Properties of an Individual Measures of Empowerment;

- **Bonnie Young**, BS, The Social Context of Collegiate Prescription Drug Abuse: Preliminary Findings.

Other posters presented were from the Department of Internal Medicine- Division of Epidemiology and Statistics, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology- Division of Biocomputing, Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, UNM College of Nursing, UNM College of Pharmacy – Community Education and Health Promotion NM National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center: Community Outreach and Education Program (COEP), Division of Pharmacy Practice, Integrated Environmental Health Middle School Project, Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Program, and Student Services.

After the poster session followed a reception and awards presentation to Dr. R. Philip Eaton, Emeritus Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, Ms. Mary Kenney, Interim Vice President of Facilities and Mr. Mark Harberts, Facilities Planner that made the RIB building possible. Two other awards, the William M. Hadley College of Pharmacy Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award were presented to Professor Mary K. Walker for years 2006-2008, and Professor Ke Jian "Jim" Liu for years 2008-2010.

Thank you to all who assisted in making the open house and poster session such a successful event as we look forward to many more events in 2007.



The Research Incubator Building Open House Poster session and reception on September 29, 2006,



# The Role of Community Advisory Council at the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center

Marla Pardilla, MPH, MSW

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) is a prestigious group who advise the University Of New Mexico Prevention Research Center, who are recommended by their peers and agencies, and especially recruited for their talents and public health influence in their communities.

The Community Advisory Council meet four times a year at UNM. Informal meetings last about 1-3 hours with a social networking luncheon and provide an opportunity for the CAC to interact with the Prevention Research Center researchers and staff. The meeting agenda usually includes a discussion of all on-going research projects at the Center, trainings and evaluations provided by the Center, and introductions of new Center staff and new CAC members. The CAC members also share information about their community health promotion and disease prevention programs.

The CAC members advise the Center on Special

Interest Projects, and other potential research and training opportunities. The CAC members serve as community guides and liaisons for the Center. CAC members listen to presentations by the PRC principal investigators and provide advice and ideas to improve the research projects. Trainings are offered to CAC members throughout the year.

When needed, CAC members also can advocate for the Center within their communities or other agencies. CAC members are sometimes asked to represent the UNM PRC at national meetings. CAC members are also invited to represent the New Mexico communities during site visits from the national CDC PRC office. They also meet with visiting New Mexico legislators who advocate for the Center.

If anyone is interested in serving or to recommend someone to be a part of this council, please contact the Center's Community Liaison, Marla Pardilla at [Mpardilla@salud.unm.edu](mailto:Mpardilla@salud.unm.edu).

## Continued from Pg 1 - Zuni School Healthy Lifestyles

community mobilization where prevention efforts will occur at the grassroots level. Together the partners seek to raise awareness of diabetes and other health risks associated with diabetes through classroom presentations. It's disturbing to realize that while all evidence shows that fitness and proper diet go a long way towards preventing health problems, little has been done to encourage fitness and nutrition.

This program wants to change that to promote a healthier Zuni community.

Another important aspect of the program entails data collection. All program services and activities allow us to collect data on participants and track their progress, which will



"Your Life's Direction" event at Zuni Intermediate School.

make it possible to evaluate over time. Presently, the program has six school assistants assigned at the various school sites, a data entry clerk, and an administrative assistant.

Although Zuni School Healthy Lifestyles is only a few years old it remains, according to the Indian Health Service, the only program of its kind in the United States. It is hoped that

the program will make enough of an impact locally to encourage other Native American schools and communities across the country to follow Zuni's lead. Please contact Zuni School Healthy Lifestyles at (505)782-4337 for additional information.



Chris Edaakie Promoting Bi-Lingual/Bi-Cultural Education at Dowayalanne.



## Announcements:

**Calvin Edwards Goodkind** was born at UNMH on October 27, 2006, weighing 7 lb 7 oz. He has two proud older sisters and one proud older brother, as well as very happy parents **Jessica Goodkind** and **Jeremy Edwards**.



**Michelle Park**, a former employee for CHPDP worked with the ACL Teen Centers' as a Health Educator. Michelle has been working at the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii for 3 years since March 11, 2002. She is a program manager for 2.5 years, upon initially being hired as a project coordinator. She oversees 2 prevention programs in West Oahu - Ewa Beach community and Honolulu - Kalihi Valley. The Lei`Ilima Girls project, in Ewa Beach, is a multifaceted program that is implemented as part of `Ilima intermediate's school health curriculum as an elective and includes an after school and summer program component. The program has existed for 12 years and functions within the wellness components

of physical health, intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social and life planning. The Kalihi Project implements an evidence-based program, Second Step, with students and parents in various elementary schools in Kalihi. Community involvement is a critical component that connects the staff with the community to reach another prevention component. Glenn and Michelle met May 2002 and he has been living in Hawaii for 17 years and is originally from Torrance, CA. They married February 10, 2006 upon his active service contract with the coast guard, he's still employed, but on military leave, with the Sheriffs. They have a six-month old son, Alexander Akira (Japanese) Dyz Me Si Waa (Laguna) Park, arrived on August 5, 2006 at 4:04am and weighed 6 lb 6 oz and 19.5 inches long. Congratulations & Best Wishes to the Park family.



**Judith Rinehart**

**Judith Rinehart**, Administrative Assistant received a "Makes a Difference" award from the Department of Pediatrics. Nominated by colleagues, she was honored because of her hard work on numerous projects, including the occasionally overwhelming Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey (YRRS) while still continuing to keep all her other tasks under control. Despite the workload and stress, she continually remains polite, willing to help, courteous to colleagues and our community partners. Additionally, Judith was nominated by her colleagues for the Department of Pediatrics' "Above and Beyond" staff award, recognizing Judith as a true team player. CHPDP simply would not run as smoothly or efficiently if it was not her.

## Announcements - Continued from Page 8

**Antonia Montoya, MS**, plans and implements the Life Skills Training curriculum to elementary schools and the DARE To Be You curriculum to middle school students and their parents. Ms. Montoya has worked as a health educator for five years and has worked in the field of health and human services for nine years. In the field of health education, Antonia specializes in sensitive topics including: HIV/AIDS, STDs, reproductive/sexual health, hepatitis, substance use, death and dying, grief and stress. In December she received her MS in Health Education, passing with distinction honors. Antonia is a Nationally Certified Health Education Specialist.



**Antonia Montoya**

Acceptance speech, Society for Nutrition Education's Mid-Career Achievement Award  
July 18, 2006, during the 39th Annual Conference held in San Francisco, California

"We don't do the work we do as nutrition educators for the recognition. We do it because we are called to it, we are passionate about it, we value it and the people we serve. And less often than perhaps we deserve, a few of us are publicly recognized for our efforts. I am honored to receive this year's SNE mid-career achievement award, and I'm humbled, and a bit uncomfortable with the attention. I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague, and nominator – Martha Archuleta – for taking the time and making the effort to nominate me. And I would like to thank the SNE nominating committee for selecting me, the Board, and the Society as a whole for contributing so much to my professional development. Finally, I would like to thank my home institution - the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center, and my wonderful family for supporting and encouraging my career in very many ways. Thank you very much." **Leslie Cunningham-Sabo, PhD, RD, LD**



**Leslie Cunningham-Sabo (right)** receives an award from **Patricia Kendall, PhD**, President of the Society for Nutrition Education & faculty at Colorado State University.

Leslie has recently accepted a tenure-track faculty position in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins Colorado. She will be teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in community nutrition and will continue to be involved in school health research. She will oversee the Cooking with Kids research and evaluation project from CSU, and will continue to visit New Mexico and especially Santa Fe to conduct related research activities. New Mexico and UNM CHPDP will always hold a very special place in her heart. She wishes everyone affiliated with CHPDP the very best, and we at CHPDP will miss her.



**Karen Lopez**

CHPDP entered the competition for Door Decorating for the holidays, and received a honorable mention. **Karen Lopez** was the primary artist for this, with help from **Leslie Trickey and Judith Rinehart**.

**Karen Lopez** recently started work at the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention this past October as an Office Assistant. She is the primary contact for visitors to the office. Karen works under the supervision of Leslie Trickey and assists with the CHILE, YRRS and Cooking with Kids projects. She loves reading, crafting, and decorating for Halloween.



# The New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey

Mary Dillon, MA

The New Mexico Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey High School Questionnaire (NM-YRRS) was developed as a part of the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (CDC-YRBSS) initiative. The CDC established in The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) in 1990 to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. These behaviors, often established during childhood and early adolescence, include tobacco use, unhealthy dietary behaviors, inadequate physical activity, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection and behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence.

The UNM Prevention Research Center has been administering the high school NM-YRRS for the NM Department of Health and NM Public Education Department since 2001 and has recently completed the 2005 study. We plan to conduct the high school survey again this Fall 2007.

The NM-YRRS is the primary youth surveillance tool in New Mexico and is used extensively by the NM Department of Health (NM DOH) and NM Public Education Department (NM PED) as well as other health agencies, community groups, and schools. It is used to:

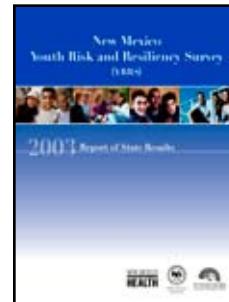
- determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors among New Mexico adolescents and their priority health-risk behaviors
- assess whether health risk behaviors increase, decrease, or stay the same over time
- examine the co-occurrence of health risk behaviors
- provide comparable national, state, and local data, and
- provide comparable data among subpopulations of youth



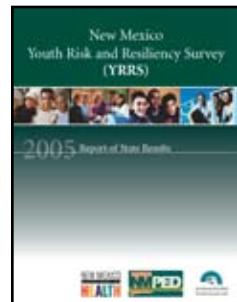
Mary Dillon

This Spring is the first time for New Mexico middle schools to participate in the YRRS. The need for a middle school survey became more apparent based on the 2005 NM-YRRS survey responses to the questions concerning the age of experimentation. The following are the actual response rates to questions on tobacco use, alcohol use, marijuana use and sexual behavior from the survey.

- 20% (this translates to 15,256 middle school students in NM) smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13 years
- 30% (this translates into 22,883 middle school students in NM) had their first drink of alcohol (other than a few sips) before age 13 years
- 21% (this translates into 16,018 middle school students in NM) tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years
- 8% (this translates into 6,102 middle school students in NM) had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years



2003 YRRS Report



2005 YRRS Report

Reports can be found at:

<http://hsc.unm.edu/chpdp/projects/pyrrs.htm>

<http://hsc.unm.edu/programs/tupac/resources.htm>

## New Staff:



Alicia Rodriguez

**Alicia Rodriguez**, BS, is a graduate from California Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting minored in Spanish and took several courses in Gerontology. She worked in several organizations in California such Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, Multivision Cable, California State University/Los Angeles & Fullerton. Alicia joined CHPDP in October 2006 as an Accountant 3 and her duties include managerial as well as monitor and provide accounting services, to the Principal Investigators and department staff. She works with Grants and Contracts department (pre awards) and provides assistance in policies and procedures such as capital expenditures versus operating expenditures, deadline for spending the funds, and other related issues regarding their awards. We are very fortunate to have Alicia on board.

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**Christopher Lee**, Navajo, is a student at the University of New Mexico, majoring in psychology with a minor in biology. Chris joined CHPDP in the Spring 2005 as a student research assistant, conducting interviews for the eThrive project with Dr. Jessica Goodkind. Currently, he assists in training new students for project interviews with the eThrive project, helps facilitate sessions for Nihii'iina, and a member of project TRUST. Chris's future goals are to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.



Christopher Lee



Ruth Kelly

**Ruth Kelly**, MSW, is a member of the Lakota Oglala Sioux Tribe of Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She was raised in Whiteriver, Arizona, where some of her family members still reside. She received her Bachelor's in Sociology from the University of Kansas and obtained her Master's of Social Work degree from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Ruth worked as a counselor at the Native American Health Center of Oakland, CA, before accepting her present position as the Counselor/Social Worker at the To'Hajiilee Teen Center and co-facilitator/mental health staff for the eTHRIVE/Nihii'iina group intervention project. She enjoys long walks and spending time with her family and friends.

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**Sandra Gale**, CNM, FNP joined the staff at the ACL Teen Centers in October 2006. She returned to New Mexico a year ago after living in Texas for 25 years. She obtained her nurse midwifery education and MPH from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Her MSN and family nurse practitioner education were obtained from the University of Texas School of Nursing in Austin. Sandra has had many years of experience in ambulatory health care, especially in the area of women's health. Her interest in public health issues and medically underserved populations came from her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Venezuela. She is very happy to be back "home" in New Mexico and excited about the opportunity to work with adolescents.



Sandra Gale



on the web:

## THE CONNECTION

<http://hsc.unm.edu/chpd>

*The Connection* is a production of the newsletter workgroup:

Sally M. Davis, PhD

Linda J. Peñaloza, PhD

Marla Pardilla, MPH, MSW

Elverna M. Bennett, BA

The Connection is a quarterly newsletter that features programs, provides updates, reports on program activities and announces upcoming events for the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center and the Community Advisory Council. Direct inquiries and correspondence to Marla Pardilla by mail or by phone.

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The University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center (UNM PRC) is one of 33 Prevention Research Centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop and carry out scientifically-based, innovative chronic disease prevention research to improve the health of Americans. The mission of the UNM PRC is to address the health promotion and disease prevention needs of New Mexicans through participatory science-based research and through collaboration, training, dissemination, and evaluation activities. The UNM PRC has a long history of partnering with communities in New Mexico and the Southwest. The UNM PRC has a Community Advisory Council (CAC), whose members serve in an advisory and advocacy capacity, and represent the public health interests and concerns of New Mexico communities. Through collaboration and communication, these two entities work together to carry out the goals of the Center.

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