

BERNALILLO COUNTY METRO COURT
Urban Native American Healing to Wellness Court

Team Approach to Incorporating Cultural Values

Mission Statement

The mission of the Urban Native American Healing to Wellness (HTW) Court Program is to create an atmosphere of healing for self-identified Native Americans through best practices and traditional methods in pursuit of spiritual and physical recovery from alcohol and other substances.



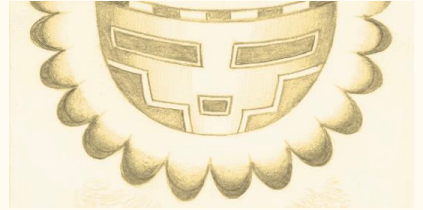
Healing to Wellness Team

- Renee Torres, Judge
- Cayla Sanderson, Program Manager
- Kevin Garcia, Lead Worker
- Arianna Chavarria, Probation Officer
- Sarah Lopez, Probation Officer
- Vicki Johnston, Case Manager
- Alyssa Aragon and Stacy Kalpathy, Defense Attorneys
- Jessica Gonzales, Prosecutor
- Tanya Rabinowitz, First Nations (FN) Director of Behavioral Health
- Jered Lee, FN Traditional Wellness Program (TWP) Coordinator
- Veronica Johnson, FN Cultural Care Provider
- Steven Toya, FN cultural Care Provider

Judge



- **Welcome participants and communicate team's common goal**
- **Interact with respect, show compassion and uphold dignity**
- **Accept the wide range of communication and ways of interacting**
- **Work toward establishing a level of trust and rapport**
- **Keep in mind that trauma and difficult circumstances brought them here**
- **Create community within the team and among participants with events**
- **Uphold Native values to create a sense of belonging and promote healing**
- **Encourage reconnection to Native identity/community by granting requests to travel to their communities and attendance at tribal ceremonies**



Program Manager

- Collaborate with judge and the team to ensure cultural competency is being practiced within each role
- Utilizing educational background and training on historical trauma
- Ensure the team attends All Rise Treatment Court and other trainings on Native American specific programming
- Collaborate with other tribal communities in an effort to respect and encourage participation in tribal ceremonies and duties
- Attend actual Native American Specific groups for real-life education on cultural practices and teachings
- Participate in staffing meetings with Traditional Wellness Coordinator to gain a cultural understanding of our participants

Probation Officer/Case Manager



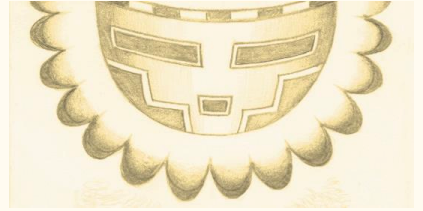
- **Understand rapport-building takes time and is key element to ensuring there is no imbalance of power**
- **Self-awareness of personal ethnic background and how it may impact participants**
- **Take an interest in cultural events, traditions and values when interacting with participants**
- **Respect cultural boundaries of traditional practices that a participant cannot speak about**
- **Practice cultural competency such as understanding verbal and nonverbal cues of communication**

Behavioral Health Treatment Provider



- **Stay current on Cultural Safety Trainings**
- **Utilize Trauma-Informed Care strategies such as Motivational Interviewing to meet participants where they are**
- **Utilize treatment modalities that are culturally-appropriate and sensitive**
- **Ask questions to gain understanding of cultural nuances**
- **Adherence to ethical standards of practice which includes maintaining cultural competence**

Traditional Wellness Coordinator



- **Encourage positive potential and cultural identity through traditional language, song, story and customs**
- **Facilitate self-help groups focusing on values from traditional Native teachings, arts, knowledge of the land, connection to nature, horses, foods, and community**
- **Provide valuable insight and information to Healing to Wellness team that supports a Cultural Values Reinforcement Approach**

Graduation Celebration

Graduate receives the following:

- **Certificate of Completion**
- **Name on Graduates Plaque**
- **Commemorative Coin**
- **Inspirational Bracelet**





Positive Participant Outcomes

- Re-build personal relationships
- Gain respect and trust
- Learn life skills
- Gain confidence/self-esteem
- Reconnect with culture
- Learn their native language
- Find a life worth living sober
- Find new purpose
- Regain Child Custody
- Obtain stable housing
- Obtain medical services
- Improve health
- Gain employment/new career
- Earn promotions
- Return to school
- Re-establish driving privileges
- Engage in prosocial activities
- Develop lasting peer relationships
- Build support system
- Awareness of community resources
- Reconnect with traditional arts
- Develop leadership skills
- Become mentors

Questions?

Contact Information

Judge Renee Torres

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

Phone: (505) 841-8225

e-mail: metrort@nmcourts.gov

Cayla Sanderson, Program Manager

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

Phone: (505) 841-8162

e-mail: metrczs@nmcourts.gov



Thank you for your time and attention!