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SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS: Native American Sub-Committee (NASC) Behavioral Health Summit

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and the New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council joined forces to host the Soaring to New Heights Native American Sub-Committee Behavioral Health Summit Wednesday in Albuquerque.

“We are proud to have allocated \$1.6 million towards behavioral health initiatives for New Mexico’s Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes,” said **Josett D. Monette, Cabinet Secretary** of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. “Effective behavioral health services are vital for the well-being and resilience of our communities, and this funding is a critical step in addressing these essential needs.”

The summit addressed behavioral health matters within Native American communities in New Mexico, and provided a vital platform for collaboration, education, and strategic planning.

Distinguished speakers included Dr. Jane Jackson Bear and Dr. Layne Kalbfleisch, with participation from the Pueblo of Pojoaque Youth Council and the New Mexico Indigenous Youth Council. Attendees engaged in presentations, discussions, and strategic planning aimed at improving behavioral health services and outcomes for Native American communities.

This event was a unique opportunity for community leaders, health professionals, and stakeholders to come together, share knowledge, and develop strategies to support Native American individuals, families, and tribal communities.

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Since 2003 the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state's Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities: economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource— our children. Learn more at www.iad.state.nm.us.