



# Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center Inc. - To'hajiilee Chapter's Community Health Provider

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638 Association – Annual Meeting,  
Scottsdale, AZ

2026

# Leadership

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- Chad Abeyta, Chairperson,  
CBNHC Inc. Board of Directors

# Leadership

## □ Lawrence R. Platero, Vice-Chairperson, CBNHC Inc. Board of Directors

Mr. Lawrence R. Platero is Taos Pueblo, and Navajo born for Edge's Water Clan. His maternal grandparents are from Taos Pueblo, and his paternal grandparents are of the Edge Water Clan. Mr. Platero was born and raised in To'Hajiilee (Canoncito), NM, located 30 miles west of Albuquerque, NM. He attended the Canoncito Day School, and Albuquerque Public Schools, graduating from West Mesa High School. He eventually attended Southwest Indian Technical Institute and the University of NM.

In 1975, he went to work for the Otitis Media Project as an Audiology Technician and eventually acquiring a license in the State of New Mexico as a Hearing Aid Dispenser serving the Public Health clinics and schools through out the state of New Mexico and Colorado for 16 years.

In 1991; Mr. Platero became involved in Navajo politics as a Navajo Nation Council Delegate for the To'hajiilee Community. He also served as To'hajiilee Community school board member for 12 years.

Mr. Platero's accomplishments in his community and to the Navajo Nation have been inspirational. During his tenure as a Council Delegate, he served on numerous committees and task forces. His accomplishments included serving as a member to the Government Services Committee in 1991-1994; Chairman to the Economic Development Committee in 1999, served as member to the Navajo Nation's Intergovernmental Relations Committee Task Force on Gaming representing New Mexico and Arizona; served as board member to the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise, and served on numerous task forces representing the Navajo Nation. Mr. Platero's envision is to continue helping his community in Student Education and to bring economy and revenue generation to the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Platero has been married for 50 years to Cornelia Platero and they have a son, Wesley. When Mr. Platero is not advocating for the Navajo Nation, he enjoys going fishing with his son and big game hunting on the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Platero also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise, which provides Tourism services for visitors to the Navajo Nation. Mr. Platero has also been elected to the Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Board; this board serves as oversight to the Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center promoting health care services to eligible Native Americans.

Mr. Platero currently re-elected to the To'hajiilee Community School Board of Education and serves as Chairperson. Some Conferences and Educational seminars attended: Dine Grant School Association Annual/ Corporate Education Conference, February 2025

NM Bilingual Day, Santa Fe, NM, March 2025 Navajo Nation Health Education Human Services Committee Leadership meeting, Gallup NM, March 2025

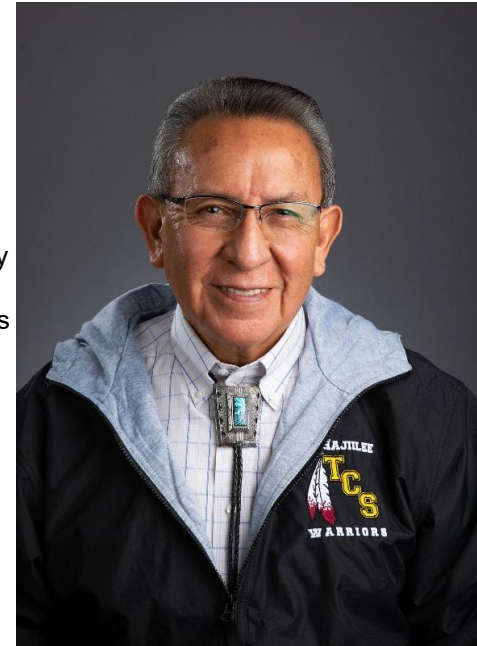
Department of Dine Education / Bureau of Education Unified Plan Discussion, Farmington NM April 2025

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute Department of Interior Tribal Education Consultation, May 2025

Department of Dine Education/ Bureau of Education Collaboration, June 2025

Attended Tri Band (Alamo Navajo Band, Ramah Navajo Band, Canoncito Navajo Band) Education Navajo Parent Conference, September 2025, Route 66

Conference Center Cognia Impact Conference, October 26-28, 2025. Various Dine Grant School Association and Dine Bi Olta School Board Association monthly meetings



# Leadership

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□ Liza Yazzie-Salas,  
Secretary/Treasurer,  
CBNHC Inc. Board of Directors



# Leadership

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## □ Iziah Shenale, Board Member, CBNHC Inc. Board of Directors

Iziah Shenale was elected to the Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center (CBNHC) Board of Directors in 2026. Born in Albuquerque and raised in To'Hajiilee, he attended To'Hajiilee Community School and is proud to serve the community he calls home.

Before joining the Health Board, Iziah served with Navajo Nation EMS, where he gained experience helping people during medical emergencies. He has also remained active in the community by attending local meetings and supporting community events.

As a Health Board Director, Iziah is committed to improving local healthcare, supporting honest and transparent leadership, and helping create new opportunities for the people of To'Hajiilee.

He is currently continuing his higher education while training to become a certified water operator to help improve and protect the community's water system.

Iziah believes that listening to the community, working hard, and serving with integrity are the best ways to make a lasting difference.



# Leadership

## ❑ Nora J. Morris, Board Member, CBNHC Inc. Board of Directors

Nora J. Morris is a respected Diné leader and lifelong advocate for the health, well-being, and self-determination of the To'Hajiilee community. With more than four decades of experience in tribal government, healthcare governance, community administration, and public service, she has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the Navajo people through compassionate leadership, accountability, and collaboration. As a member of the Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center (CBNHC) Health Board, Ms. Morris is committed to ensuring that quality, culturally responsive healthcare is accessible to all community members. She believes that strong healthcare systems are built through transparency, responsible governance, and partnerships that honor the values, traditions, and voices of the people they serve. Since 2004, Ms. Morris has served as the To'hajiilee Senior Center Supervisor, Headstart Program in To'hajiilee, where she has overseen community development initiatives, financial management, project planning, personnel supervision, and coordination with Navajo Nation, state, and federal agencies. Her leadership has helped strengthen programs and services that benefit elders, youth, and families while promoting sustainable community growth. Her extensive record of public service includes serving as a Health Board Member for the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Hospital, a member of the To'Hajiilee Health Board, Chapter Vice-President, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, and School Board Member for To'Hajiilee Community School. She has also served on the Albuquerque Public Schools Indian Parent Committee, advocating for educational opportunities and family engagement for Native students. Prior to her administrative leadership, Ms. Joe-Morris served for more than 20 years as a Vital Records Technician with the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records, where she developed expertise in public service, records management, and governmental operations. Ms. Joe-Morris earned a Micro Computer Secretary Diploma from International Business College and a Data Processing Certificate from Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute. Throughout her career, she has continued to expand her knowledge through professional training in leadership, project management, fiscal accountability, and organizational development. Grounded in the Diné principles of Hózhó, respect, and service, Ms. Joe-Morris remains dedicated to advocating for quality healthcare, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring that future generations have access to the services and opportunities they need to thrive. She considers it an honor to serve the Canoncito Band of Navajos and remains committed to advancing the mission of CBNHC through ethical leadership and a steadfast commitment to the people

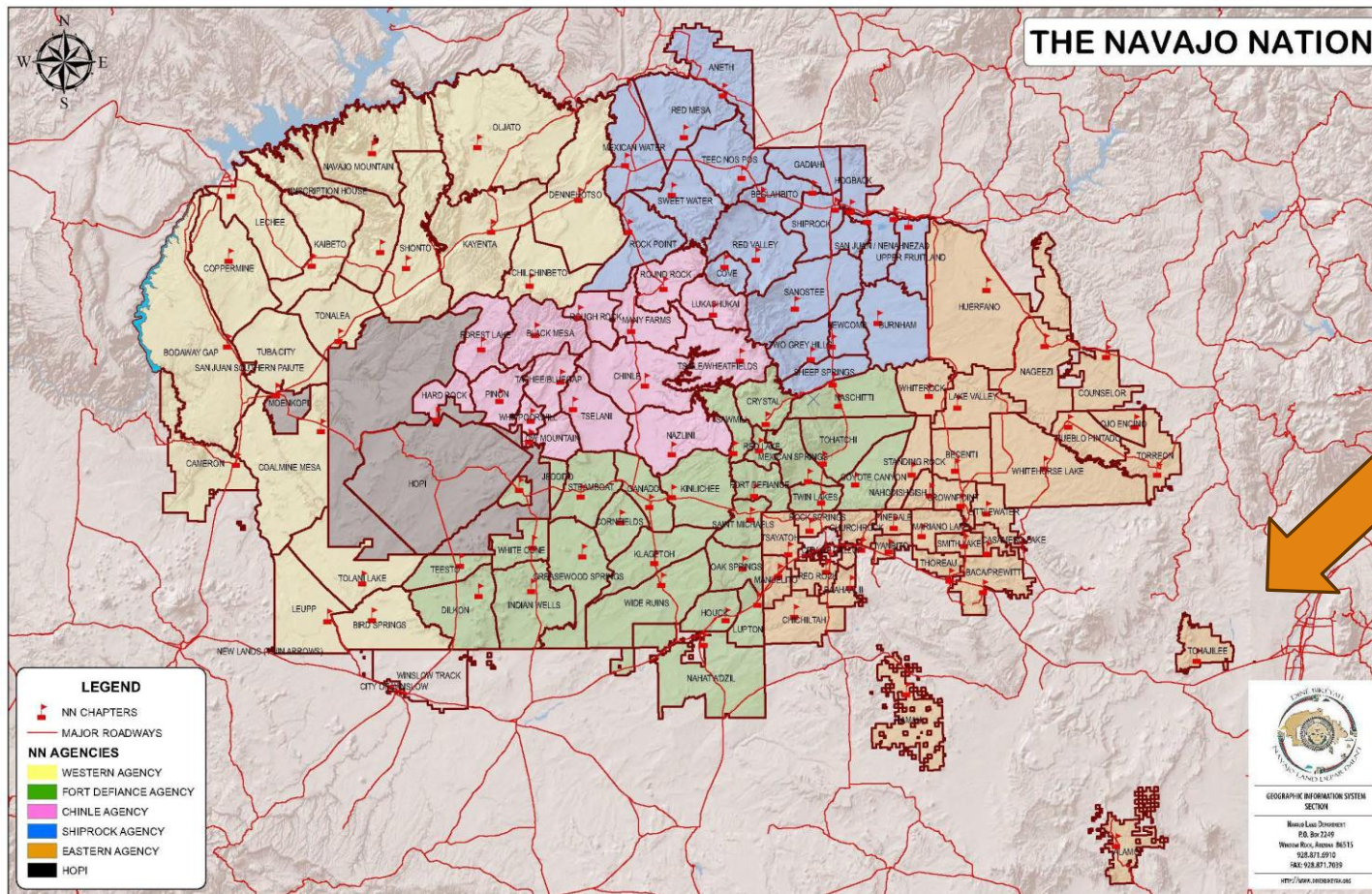




*Our focus is rebuilding a culture of wellness and healing supporting the connection between older and younger generations through collaboration between the health center and tribal, state, and federal government.*

*We are elevating our care by pursuing an Advanced Patient Centered Medical Home model.*

# To'Hajiilee Community



# Strategic Initiatives

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- ❑ Serve All To'Hajiilee Members
- ❑ Implementing an Integrated Care Coordination program that embraces the patient from both the clinic and community settings, providing whole-person care
- ❑ Utilize population health data to drive health care delivery and services

# Goals

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- ❑ Advanced PCMH
- ❑ AAAHC Accreditation (Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care)
- ❑ Integrating Culture and Wellness throughout programs

# Organization

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- ❑ Established September 29, 2003
- ❑ A 93-638 Indian Health Service Provider Under To'hajilee Designation
- ❑ Serves Primarily the To'Hajiilee Community
- ❑ 12 Programs; 85 Personnel (Permanent, Contract, Interns)
- ❑ Navajo Nation Chartered Non-Profit Corporation
- ❑ Served by the Albuquerque IHS Service area

# Advanced PCMH Model

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PCMH is defined as a model of primary care that is:

- Patient-centered
- Comprehensive
- Team-based
- Coordinated
- Accessible
- Focused on quality

# Departments

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- Medical
- Dental
- Pharmacy
- Behavioral Health
- Traditional Care Services
- CHR/PHN
- Diabetes
- Transportation
- Audiology
- Optometry
- Psychiatry
- Purchased Referred Care
- Patient Services: PBC, Registration, HIMS, PIV, Greeter
- Revenue Cycle/Billing
- IT Management
- Financial Management
- Facilities Management

# Next Steps

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- Health Care Delivery Partnership: Contracting with MCOs and Community Vendors
- Services: Walk in care, Integrated High-Risk Coordinated Care
- Site Location: Expanding Dental (1000 sq.ft.)
- Staffing: Specialty Care Agreements for On-Site or Community Based Services
- Operations Plan: Strengthen foundation, institutionalize Advanced PCMH architecture

# Planning for the Future

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☐ Dental Expansion

☐ Wellness Center

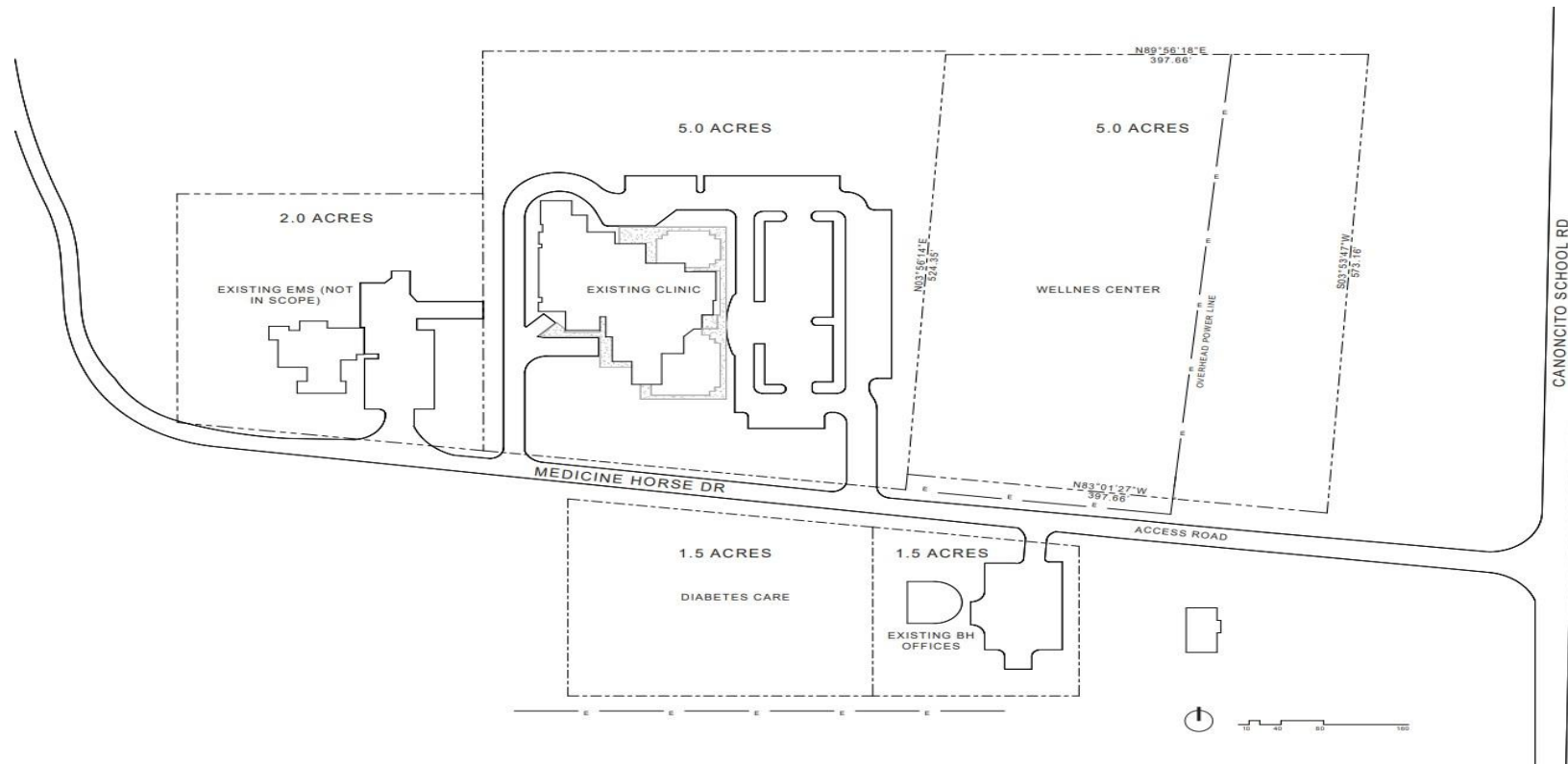
# Conceptual Planning

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Up to 10,000 sf. and proposed programming includes Wellness Center and Dental Expansion

# Project Site Identified



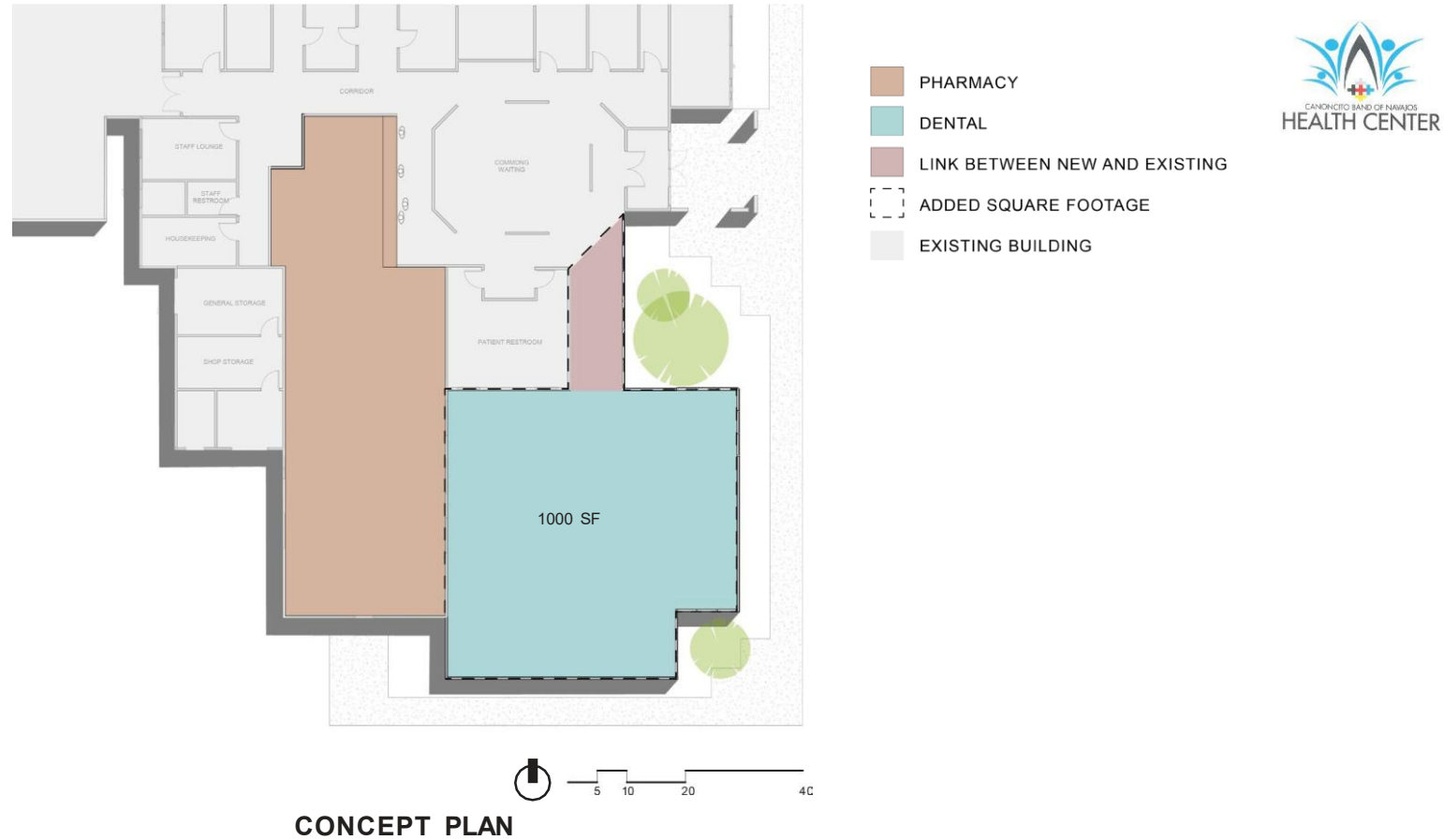
Land Withdrawn per BIA Novation

# Funding Sources

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- New Mexico Indian Affairs Department
  - Tribal Infrastructure Fund Grant
  - Wellness Center: \$4 million
- New Mexico Capital Outlay Fund
  - Dental Expansion of 1000 sq. ft.

# Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center, Inc. Wellness Center and Dental Expansion



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*Ahee'hee*



CANONCITO BAND OF NAVAJOS  
**HEALTH CENTER**  
INC.