

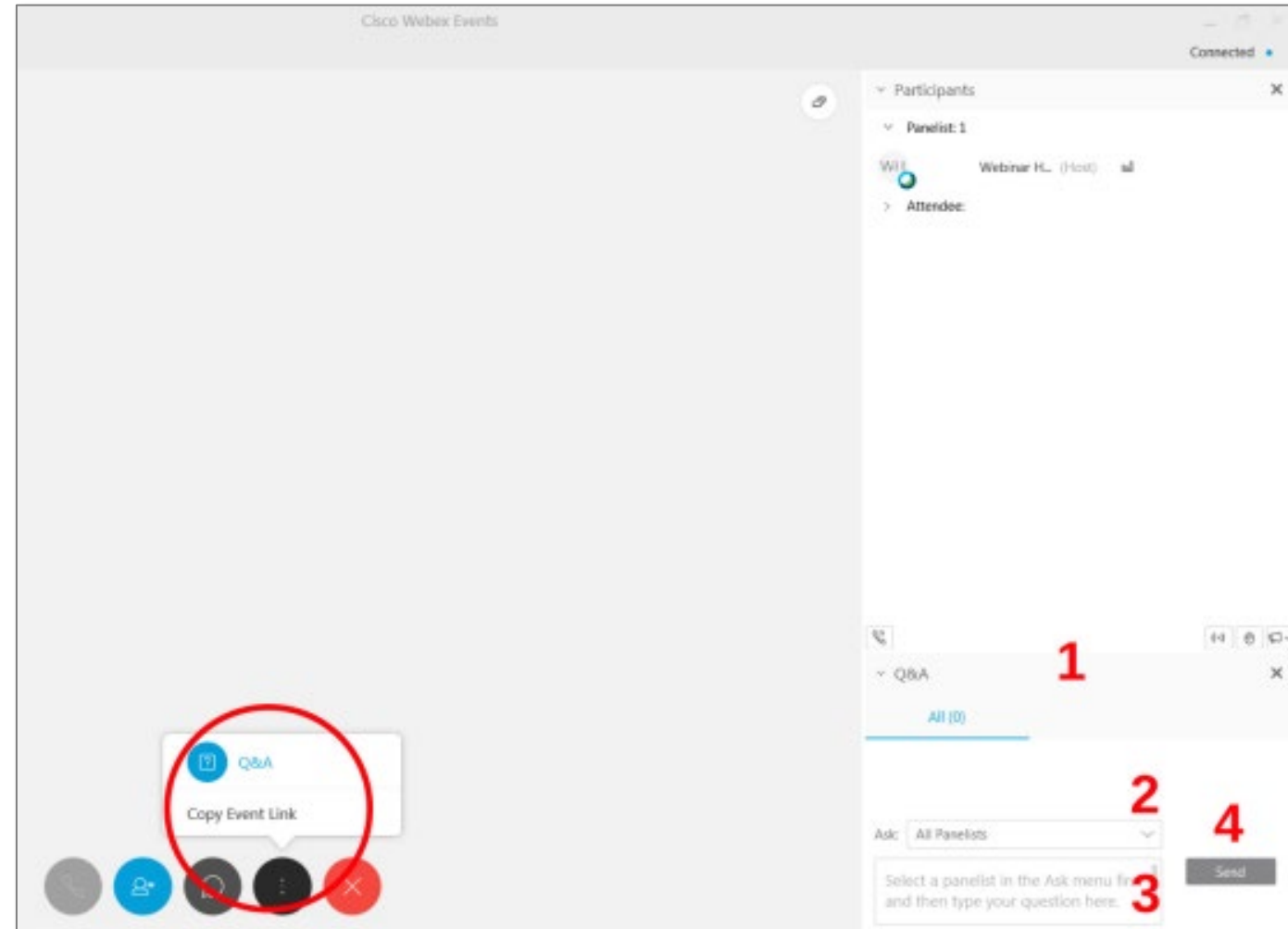
COVID-19 in Indian Country: Past Policy, Current Responses, and Future Implications

August 18, 2020 | 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

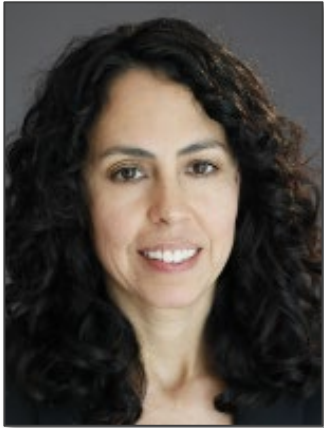
Co-sponsored by:

How to Use WebEx Q & A

1. Open the Q&A panel
2. Select “All Panelists”
3. Type your question
4. Click “Send”



Moderator



April Shaw, Staff Attorney, Network for Public Health Law—Northern Region Office

- Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder
- J.D., University of Arizona

Presenter



Heather Tanana, Assistant Professor (Research), S.J. Quinney College of Law – University of Utah; Associate Faculty, Johns Hopkins University – Center for American Indian Health

- J.D., University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
- M.P.H., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

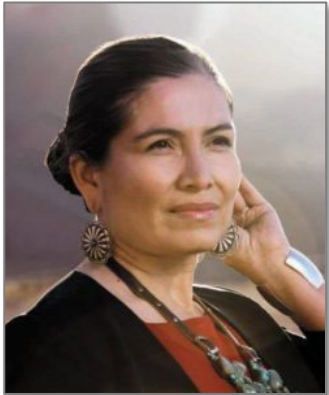
Presenter



Aila Hoss, Assistant Professor of Law,
University of Tulsa College of Law

- J.D., University of Oregon School of Law

Presenter



Ethel Branch, Founder & Interim Director,
Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief
Fund

- J.D., Harvard Law School
- M.P.P., Harvard Kennedy School

Presenter



Philomena Kebec, Co-Coordinator,
Gwayakobimaadiziwin Bad River Needle
Exchange

- J.D., University of Minnesota Law School

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

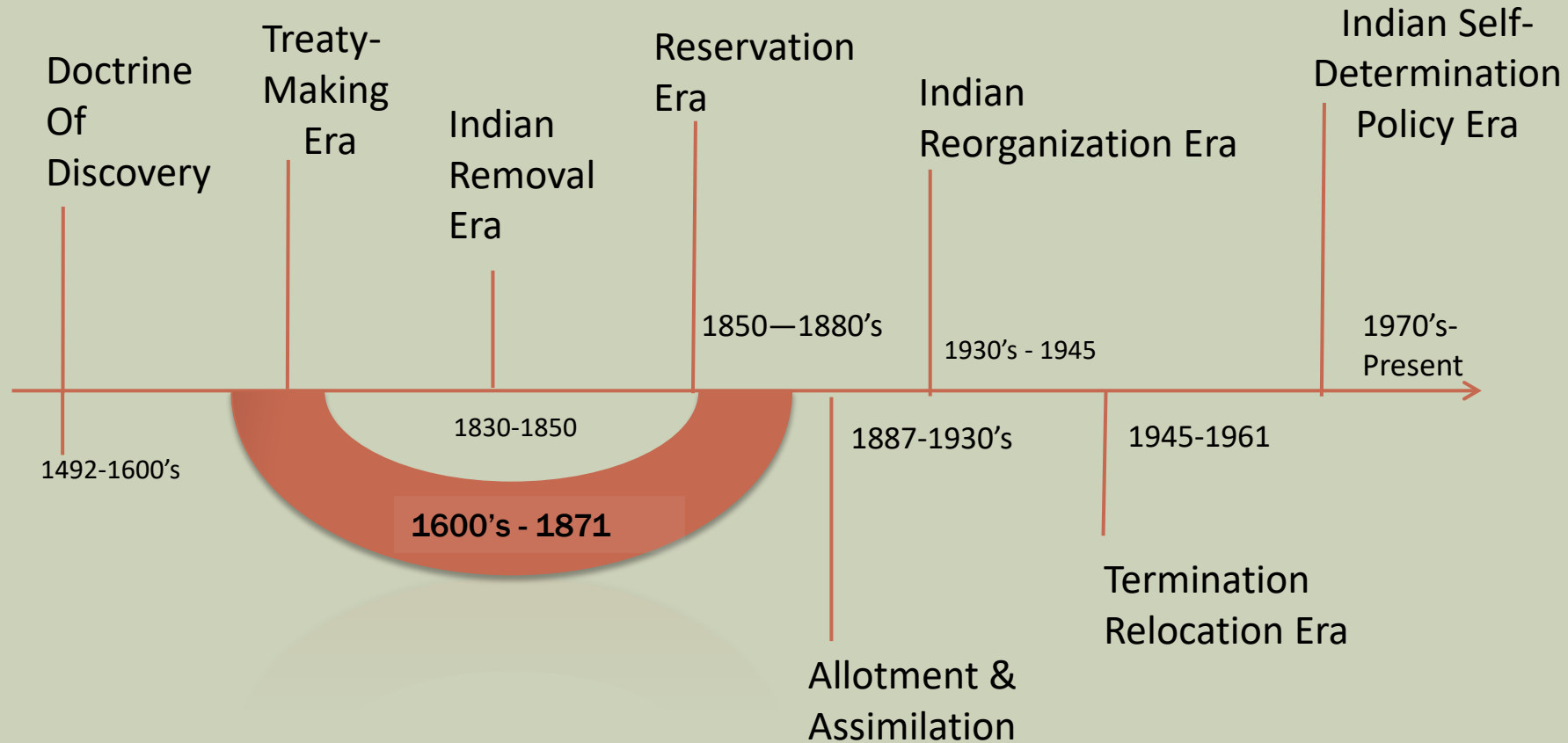
Historical and Legal Considerations

Heather Tanana

**Use Cloth Face Coverings in Public
to Slow the Spread of COVID-19**



FEDERAL INDIAN POLICY





HISTORICAL TRAUMA

Forced
Relocation

Boarding
Schools

Sterilization

Live Stock
Reduction

Uranium Mining

THE BASICS: US HISTORY

- Articles of Confederation, Article IX (1781) – States have primary authority
- U.S. Constitution (1789) – Federal government has authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the state, and with Indian Tribes; supremacy clause; etc.
- Indian Civil Rights Act (1968) – applies many of the protections (not all) found in the Bill of Rights to Tribes

THE BASICS: TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Doctrine of Discovery

“It is supposed to be a principle of universal law, that, if an uninhabited country be discovered by a number of individuals, who acknowledge no connexion with, and owe no allegiance to, any government whatever, the country becomes the property of the discoverers, so far at least as they can use it. They acquire a title in common. The title of the whole land is in the whole society. It is to be divided and parcelled out according to the will of the society, expressed by the whole body, or by that organ which is authorized by the whole to express it.”

Johnson v. M'Intosh, 21 U.S. 543, 595 (1823)

THE BASICS: TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

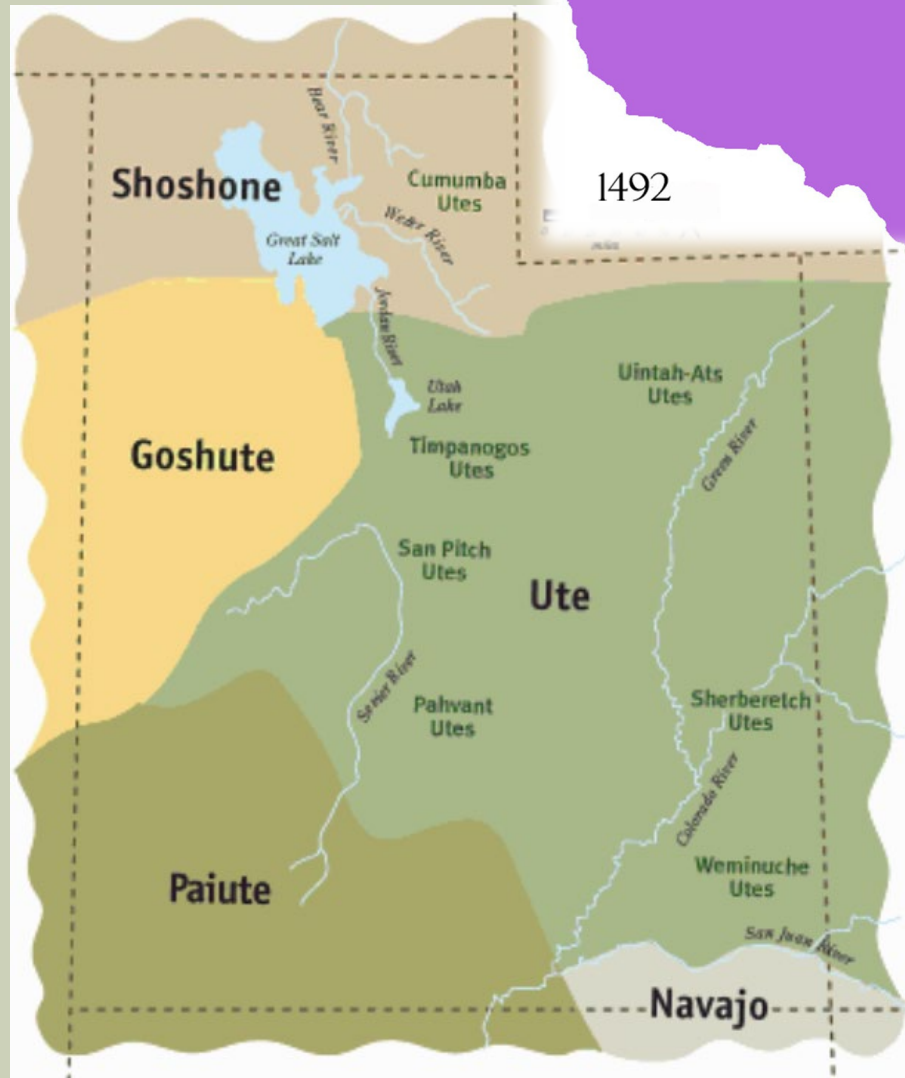
“Tribal sovereignty today finds at least as much meaningful definition in the growth, development and day-to-day functioning of effective tribal governments as it finds in the volumes of the law library. Far from being relics of a bygone era, Indian tribal powers bear the fine burnish of every day use.”

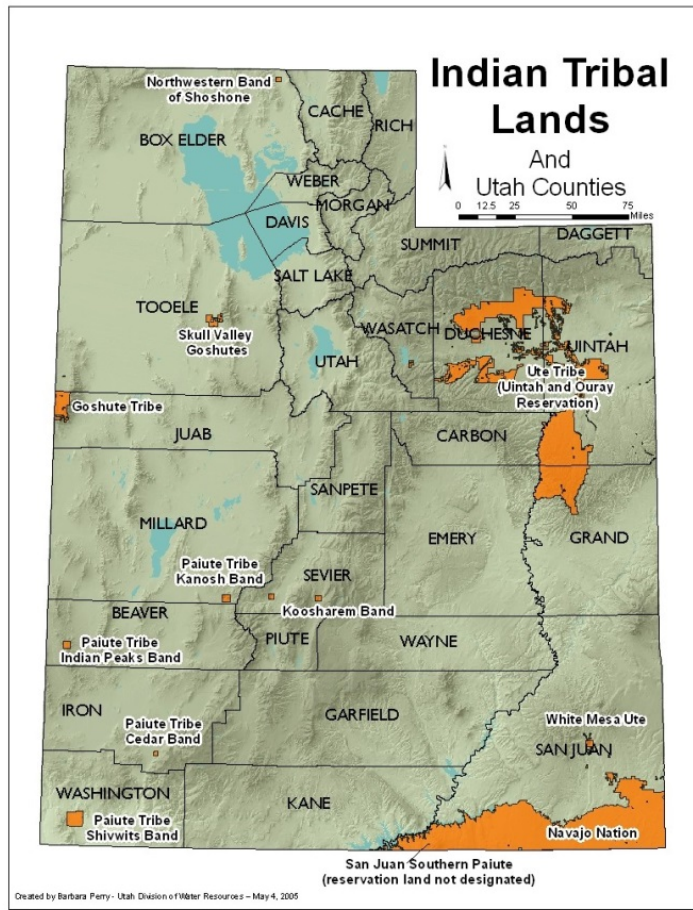
MacArthur v. San Juan County, 391 F. Supp. 2d 895,
940 (D. Utah 2005)

Know your relevant treaty and tribal laws!

JURISDICTION

THEN
AND NOW





THEN AND NOW

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY & TRIBAL INHERENT AUTHORITY

- Tribes have inherent authority as sovereign nations to protect and promote the health and welfare of their citizens using the methods most relevant for their communities
- Tribal inherent authority is a “plenary and exclusive power over their members and their territory, subject only to limitations imposed by federal law,” and includes the power to determine the form of tribal government and the power to legislate and tax, among others

STATE CIVIL REGULATION - TESTS

■ INFRINGEMENT

- State may not exert power within Indian country if such action would infringe on the rights of Indians to make laws and be ruled by them

Williams v. Lee, 358 U.S. 217 (1959)

■ PRE-EMPTION

- States may not exert authority if it is preempted by federal law

McClanahan v. Arizona State Tax Comm'n, 411 U.S. 164 (1973);
New Mexico v. Mescalero Apache Tribe, 462 U.S. 324 (1983)

TRIBAL CIVIL REGULATION - TESTS

■ CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Tribes may exercise jurisdiction over non-Indians when the non-Indians enter consensual relationships

■ DIRECT EFFECTS/THREATS TO TRIBAL WELFARE

- Tribes may exercise jurisdiction over non-Indian when non-Indian's conduct "threatens or has some direct effect on the political integrity, the economic security, or the health or welfare of the tribe"

Montana v. United States, 450 U.S. 544 (1981)

COVID-19 and Indian Country: Exploring Legal Barriers

Aila Hoss, JD

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law

August 18, 2020

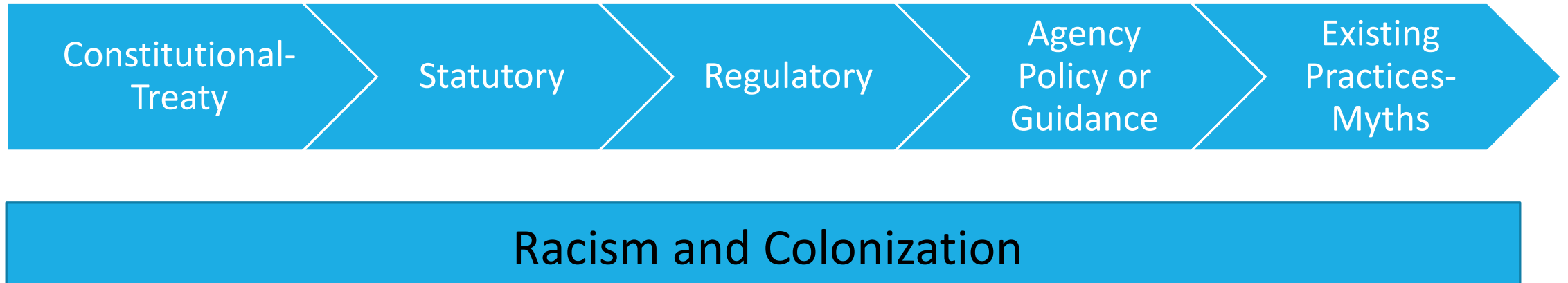
Disclaimers

- The contents of this presentation are for educational purposes only.
- I cannot provide legal advice on any issue and do not represent any individual or entity.
- I recommend seeking the advice of an attorney or other qualified professional with questions regarding the application of law to your specific circumstance.

Public Health Legal Preparedness

- Understanding the role of law as a tool in exercising public health emergency response authorities
- Recognizing perceived and actual legal barriers to implementing certain response actions
- Incorporating legal requirements and procedures into preparedness plans, exercises, and activities

Perceived and Actual Legal Barriers



Barriers: Federal Law

- Reneging on treaty and trust responsibility requirements for health care, personal protective equipment
- Reneging on statutory responsibilities on public health data access
- Inadequate access to water
- Inadequate of ineffective consultation
- Strategic National Stockpile access

Considerations: Intergovernmental Coordination

- Jurisdictional issues in the provision of public health services
- Cross-jurisdictional agreements and MOUs
- Data access

Considerations: Tribal Law

- Establishing new public health processes
- Intragovernmental responsibilities
- HIPAA and case disclosures

Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination

- While states have limited jurisdiction with respect to tribal lands, tribes are free to enter into intergovernmental agreements with state, local, or other tribal governments on cross-jurisdictional issues, including emergency preparedness
- Emergency management plans often detail specifics for coordination with other governments and agencies
- Intergovernmental agreements allow governments to formalize arrangements to share information and data, medical and response personnel, and other resources in the event of an emergency
 - Mutual aid agreements
 - Memoranda of understanding
 - Tribal Emergency Mutual Aid Compacts

Data Collection & Sharing Considerations

- Tribal ownership of data & Tribal sovereignty implications
 - Which law is going to govern?
- Use and presentation of data
- Data quality and data management systems
- IHS v Tribally-Operated Facilities
- Role of Tribal IRB and Tribal research and data statutes
- Tribal Consultation

Determining Tribal Civil Jxd Non-Member

- Civil jurisdiction: *Montana v. United States*, 450 U.S. 544, 564–65 (1981)
 - **General rule:** The inherent sovereign powers of an Indian Tribe do not extend to the activities of nonmembers of the Tribe on non-member fee lands beyond what is necessary to protect tribal self-government or to control internal relations.
 - **Exceptions:** Known as the “*Montana Test*”
 - Consensual Relations
 - Direct Effects

Cross-Jurisdictional Agreements

- Can be as formal as legally binding agreements, less formal MOUs, or informal agreements
- Can include data sharing, resource sharing, service support
- All or some combination is okay!
- Considerations
 - Application (public health emergency only, others)
 - Licensing and Qualification
 - Costs and Reimbursements
 - Indemnification
 - Temporary delegation of authorities to non-Tribal public health officer (but including withdrawal at any time)

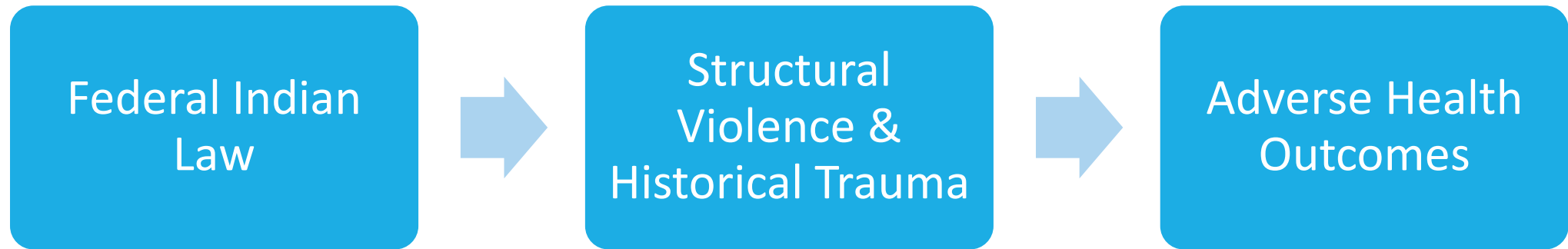
Intragovernmental Responsibilities

- Tribes have the inherent authority to engage in public health activities. Period.
- Tribal codes, plans, and policies help operationalize public health activities and prevent confusion in real time.
 - Designation of a certain department as the public health authority
 - Designation of a certain position as a public health officer
 - Designation of responsibilities across different departments and entities, including clinics
- Tribal administrative law considerations – hard to predict
- Consideration for clinics: is the activity within the scope of your ISDEAA contract? do you already perform services and programs outside of your contract?
 - If not, Tribal codification (or other written policy) may be needed or very useful
 - If not, could have state jurisdiction exposure ie state licensing laws
 - If not, then liability coverage may be needed through Tribal code

HIPAA and Case Disclosures

- Office of Civil Rights COVID Bulletin,
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/february-2020-hipaa-and-novel-coronavirus.pdf>
 - Public Health Activities
 - Disclosures to Prevent a Serious and Imminent Threat
 - Disclosures to Family, Friends, and Others Involved in an Individual's Care and for Notification
 - Minimum Necessary
- HIPAA Hybrid Entity Designation.
<https://www.networkforphl.org/resources/tribal-hipaa-hybrid-entity-faqs/>

Linking Federal Indian Law to Adverse Health Outcomes



Thank you!

Aila Hoss, JD

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law

aila-hoss@utulsa.edu

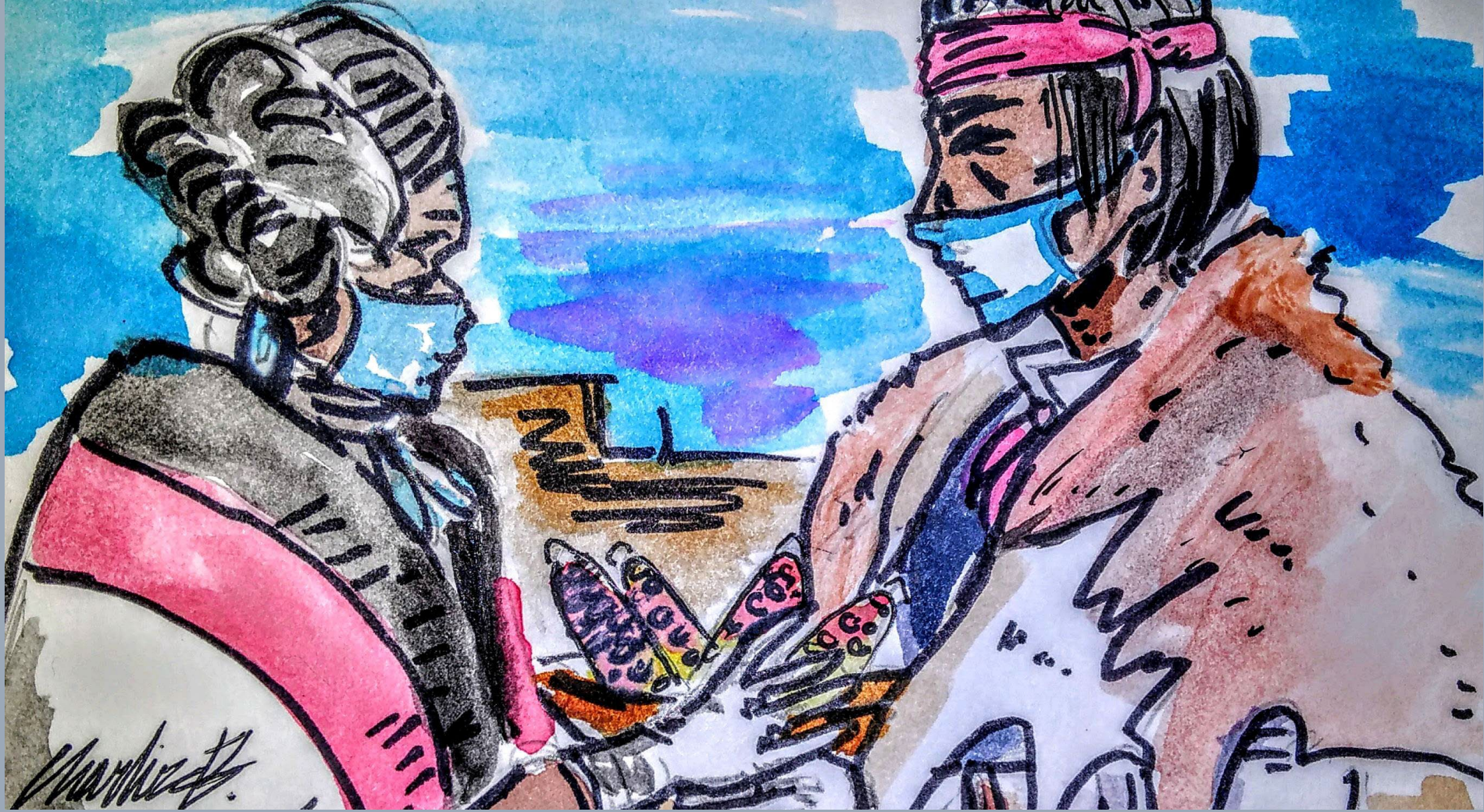


The Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

AN INITIATIVE OF YEE HA'OOLNIIDOO

ETHEL BRANCH

Art by Charlize Branch (17 years old)



May our peoples have fortitude

The Relief Fund

The Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund (the “Relief Fund”) is an initiative of Yee Ha’oolniidoo, a nonprofit formed under Utah law on April 1, 2020. Yee Ha’oolniidoo’s fiscal sponsor is Nonprofit Legal Services of Utah d/b/a Nonprofit Fiscal Services, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

The Governing Board of Yee Ha’oolniidoo is all Navajo women, as are its staff members.

The primary objective of the Relief Fund is to flatten the curve on the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation. By providing food and water to high risk, vulnerable, and COVID-positive community members, they are enabled to stay home and social distance. We also provide PPE to community members and various high-contact groups, such as community health representatives, first responders, police officers, and medical staff. Finally, we also seek to raise public awareness on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Credit: Malene Comes

Date: March 17, 2020

Description: This is a photo of volunteers from our partner, Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid, loading a flatbed for transport to Winslow, AZ, where the food was handed over to Navajo Community Health Representatives for distribution to elders and immunocompromised individuals they serve on the Navajo Nation. This was our first load, which was delivered on March 17. The food and water from this load served elders in the CHRs' Dilcon Service Unit and Fort Defiance Service Unit, as well as individuals placed into quarantine in Chilchinbeto.



Our Story

The Relief Fund was established on March 15, 2020 when Ethel Branch, the former Navajo Nation Attorney General, started a GoFundMe Campaign to raise money to assist a few Navajo and Hopi families with purchasing two-weeks' worth of food so they could go into self-quarantine and be protected from the initial onslaught of COVID-19 cases in the area.

The GoFundMe Campaign raised \$5000 by the end of the day, and Ethel reached out to 8 amazing Navajo women leaders to ask for their assistance in spreading this aid broadly across the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. The Relief Fund soon had a Leadership Team of **12** amazing Navajo and Hopi women leaders and one honorary member and key partner, Klee Benally of Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid. The Team raised over \$5 million on GoFundMe and formed Yee Ha'oolniidoo to manage the funds and conduct relief work.

As of June 29, 2020 the team and a legion of Navajo and Hopi volunteers all over the two nations has provided food and water to over 10,000 households (roughly averaging 4 persons per household) in over 80 Chapters on Navajo and in 9 of the 12 Hopi Villages. The team is also handing out masks and hand sanitizer with their Kinship Care Packages.



Photo Credit: Vanessa Tulley, Board Member

Date: March 18, 2020

In the days before strict social distancing, our Phoenix volunteers, led by Vanessa Tulley (third from right), Yee Ha'oolniidoo Board Member, load our first truckload from Phoenix to Navajo Nation. Delores Greyeyes (fourth from left, standing), another Board Member, prepares to drive the truck North.

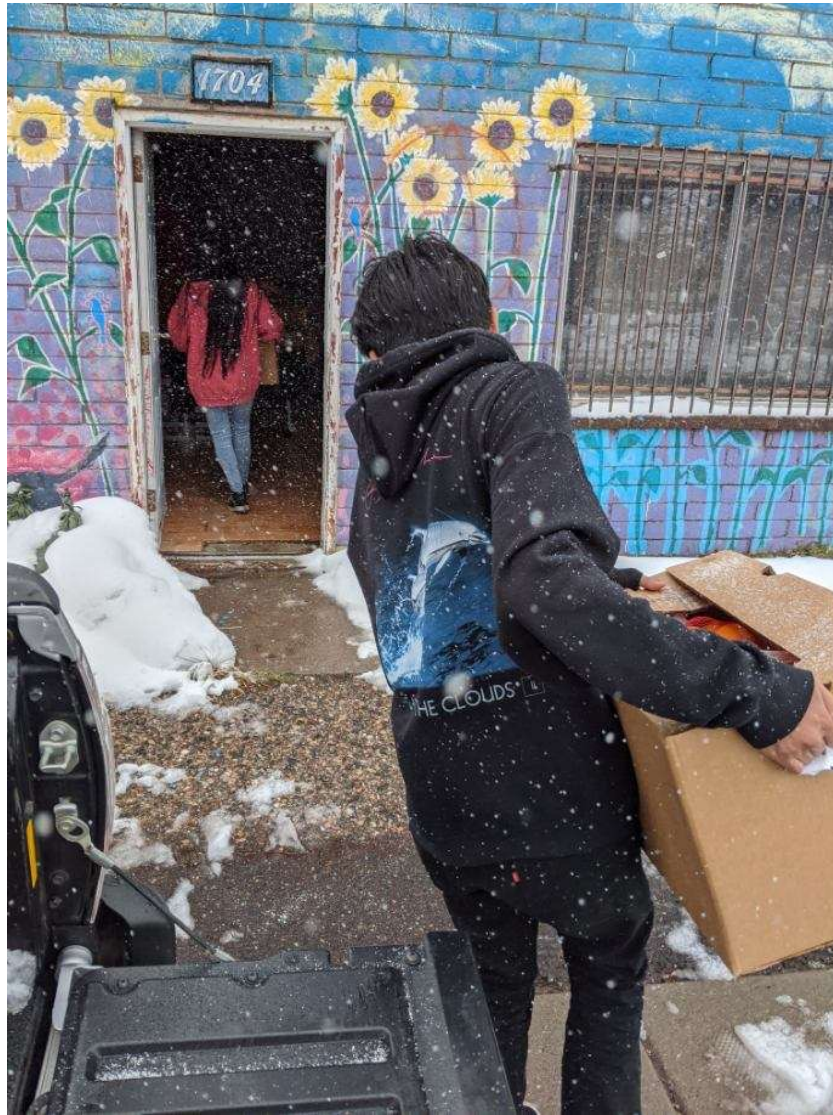
Our Context

Our communities have high numbers of elderly, diabetic, asthmatic, and cancer-afflicted (i.e., high risk) individuals due to long-standing environmental injustices that made Navajo Nation a national sacrifice area for almost a century. Our communities could be devastated by COVID-19.

The Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation are extreme food deserts with only 13 grocery stores on Navajo to serve some 180,000 people and only 3 small grocery marts on Hopi to serve some 3,000 people. Tribal members often must drive hours to access a meaningful grocery store, and sometimes encounter empty shelves for the things that they need.

One-third of households on the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation do not have running water. Another one-third do not have electricity in their homes. This makes constant handwashing difficult.

Navajo regularly has roughly 50% unemployment and Hopi has approximately 60% unemployment. So many households don't have the funds to purchase 2-weeks' worth of food at a time.



Credit: Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid

Date: March 19, 2020

Description: Volunteers from our partner, Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid, unloading a truck delivering food from Phoenix at Taala Hooghan Infoshop in Flagstaff to sterilize the food and prepare it for transport to the Hopi Villages of Bacavi and Oraibi. 140 Kinship Care Packages were provided from this load.

The Work We Do

The Relief Fund is centered on providing food, water, cleaning supplies, PPE, and other essential items in Kinship Care Packages to Navajo and Hopi elders, immunocompromised, and struggling families that are most at risk of contracting COVID-19. Our objective is to prevent these high-risk individuals from contracting COVID-19 and to help flatten the curve on the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation.

Our Relief Fund also assists families with a positive or presumed positive case of COVID-19 by providing them with Kinship Care Packages or COVID+ Isolation Kits so they do not have to go shopping in advance of isolation and quarantine, thus preventing the larger community from exposure to COVID-19 and further helping to flatten the curve.

We also provide PPE to high-contact individuals, such as community health representatives and first responders.

We are also launching a media campaign designed to provide the in-depth information that the public, especially the Navajo-speaking public, needs to have in order to understand the importance of staying home, social distancing, and embracing sterilization practices.



Photo Credit: Lt. Robbin Preston

Date: March 21, 2020

Description: Lt. Robbin Preston, Tuba City Team Leader, and his team sanitize and assemble 50 Kinship Care Packages for elders and immunocompromised in Chilchinbeto, the first Navajo community hit by COVID-19.



Protecting the Most Vulnerable

We have provided over 10,000 families with elders, immunocompromised individuals, or children with Kinship Care Packages that include food, water, cleaning supplies, PPE, and other essential items such as adult pull-ups, diapers, sanitary napkins, and toilet paper.

We have served 9 of the 12 Hopi Villages, and over 80 Chapters on the Navajo Nation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

We seek to serve the *whole family*, not just high-risk individuals, because one family member leaving the home to procure food or other necessary items puts the entire family at risk.

We also provide enough food for *two weeks* so the family can remain free from exposure to COVID-19 for a meaningful period of time.



Photo Credit: Corenda McClean

Date: March 24, 2020

Description: Lynette Adams of Infinity Homecare of Page picks up a load from our Phoenix volunteers to drive to Monument Valley, Utah for distribution.

Assisting the COVID-19 Afflicted

We also serve families with a positive or presumed positive case of COVID-19 by providing them with Kinship Care Packages, or COVID+ Isolation Kits, with enough food, water, and essential items to last them two weeks or until they receive their test results.

Isolation Kits include tents, cots, blankets, handwashing stations, and other items needed to facilitate isolation where COVID-positive individuals live in an overcrowded home, or without running water or electricity.



Photo Credit: Shandiin Herrera, Board Member

Date: March 25, 2020

Description: These photos are from when volunteers, including from the Monument Valley Fire Department, were unloading our fourth load in Oljato, Utah. 312 Kinship Care Packages were handed out from this load in the communities of Oljato, Monument Valley, Halchita, Piute Farms, Narrow Canyon, Douglas Mesa, Promise Rock, and Kayenta. Shandiin is pictured on the right with the prepared Kinship Care Packages.

Mobile PPE Pantries

We are currently in the process of launching an PPE Pantry initiative to provide a number of mobile PPE distribution sites throughout the Navajo and Hopi nations in order to maximize access to masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies for Navajo and Hopi families.



Film Credit: Karney Hatch

Date: March 26, 2020

Description: Video highlighting our group's work

Educating the Public

There is a great deal of confusion on the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation regarding COVID-19 and how it is different from the flu.

There is also a lack of understanding about the role that staying home, social distancing, handwashing, and sterilization practices can play in helping stop the spread of COVID-19.

We seek to overcome these barriers by educating the Navajo and Hopi public in the Navajo, Hopi, and English languages regarding COVID-19 and effective preventative measures so we can slow and hopefully stop the spread of the virus. We plan to use radio, video, billboards, and social media to achieve this objective.

Culturally-Relevant Content

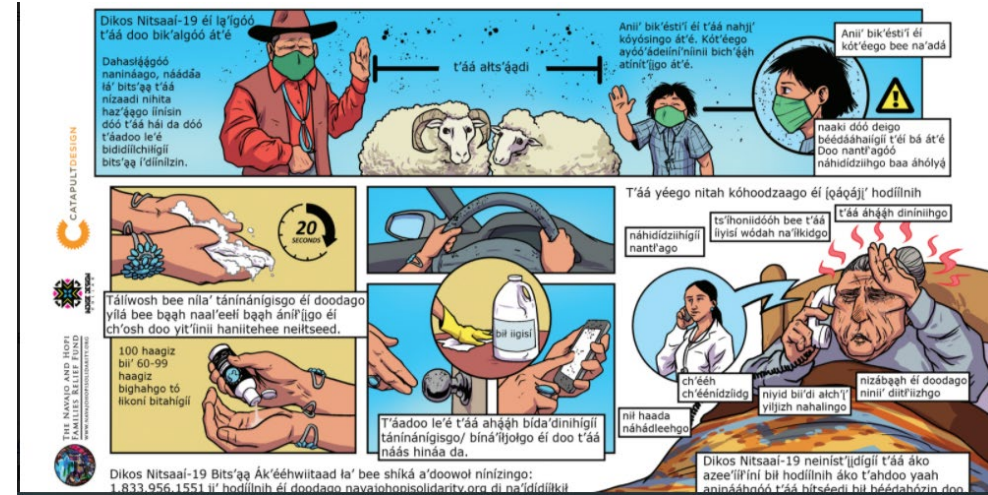




Photo Credit: Lt. Robbin Preston

Date: April 4, 2020

Description: Lt. Preston, Tuba City Team Leader, and his team work through the weekend to load food into transport vehicles for distribution to 80 elders and immunocompromised in the Hopi Villages of Upper and Lower Moenkopi.

Seamstresses COVID-19 Dooda

Early on we launched a sub-initiative called Navajo Seamstresses United COVID-19 Dooda. It has two chapters; one on Western Navajo and one on Eastern Navajo. These teams of over 300 seamstresses from throughout Navajo and Hopi as well as off-reservation communities in the four corners states, New York, and Georgia sew masks for first responders, elders, quarantined communities, and volunteers.

This team has distributed 37,515 masks, hospital gowns, shoe covers, scrub caps, and face shields as of June 3, 2020. Most of these were sewn by the team's seamstresses and others were donated by businesses. The team recently filled an order for 500 masks from a Navajo Nation first responder entity.

Now that the Navajo Nation has ordered the public to wear masks, our demand from community members has spiked, and we intend to meet it best we can. Accordingly, we are working to provide masks in all of our Kinship Care Packages.



Photo Credit: Lt. Robbin Preston

Date: April 6, 2020

Description: Our volunteer team led by Lt. Robbin Preston out of the Navajo Department of Corrections in Tuba City operate a drive-thru distribution to 46 elders.

Our Team

Ethel Branch, Founder and Interim Director

Delores Greyeyes, Arizona Co-Lead

Vanessa Tulley, Arizona Co-Lead, Buyer and Volunteer Lead

Jessica Stago, Arizona Co-Lead & Water Lead

Janene Yazzie, New Mexico Lead

Kim Smith, Northern Agency Lead

Amber Crotty, Community Partner

Shandiin Herrera, Utah Lead

Pam Lalo, Hopi Co-Lead

Lilian Hill, Hopi Co-Lead

Cassandra Begay, Communications Lead

Theresa Hatathlie-Delmar, Leader of Navajo Seamstresses United COVID-19 Dooda (sub-initiative)

Klee Benally, Key Partner and Honorary Leadership Team Member

Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ethel Branch, Chair

Delores Greyeyes, Secretary

Vanessa Tullie, Treasurer

Jessica Stago

Shandiin Herrera

STAFF

Ethel Branch, Interim Executive Director

Cassandra Begay, Deputy Director

Theresa Hatathlie, Logistics Coordinator

Mary Francis, Distribution Coordinator



Ethel Branch, Founder

Ethel is the former Attorney General of the Navajo Nation and a Member of a law firm that pursues high stakes litigation on behalf of tribes. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard College.



Delores Greyeyes, Board Secretary

Delores is the Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections. She recently received her Ph.D. in Justice Studies.



Vanessa Tullie, Board Treasurer

Vanessa is the Owner of Ahehee' Shidine'e Homecare LLC. She is also the Buyer and Volunteer Coordinator for the Relief Fund and sews masks to donate in her "free time."



Jessica Stago, Board Member

Jessica is the director of the business incubator for Change Labs, which supports the growth of native-owned businesses. Jessica has an MBA from the University of Phoenix that she uses to build an ecosystem for entrepreneurship in Native communities.



Shandiin Herrera, Board Member

Shandiin is a Lead for America Hometown Fellows working with the Oljato Chapter of the Navajo Nation in her home community of Monument Valley. She is a recent graduate of Duke University. She is dedicated to advocating for policies that directly impact Indigenous communities.



Cassandra Begay, Deputy Director

Cassandra Begay engages in transformational organizing with Native communities in Utah and across the country to protect ancestral lands and elevate Native voices and issues. She is the Founder of Defend the Sacred Consulting, which seeks to close the gap of social inequality by building relationships to each other and our environment. Cassandra is also Co-Founder and former Tribal Liaison for the Native Advocacy organization, PANDOS, a Native led nonprofit that advocates for basic human rights and the protection of our shared home. She is a graduate of Utah State.



Theresa Hataathlie, Logistics Coordinator

Theresa is Deer Springs clan, born for Salt clan. Her maternal grandfathers are Edgewater clan and her paternal grandfathers are Rock Gap clan. She is from Coalmine Mesa, Arizona. She has worked for 20+ years in positive youth development strategies for communities within western Navajo. For the past 9 years she has served on the Diné College Board of Regents and currently serve as the Vice-President. She has a B.S. in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University. She leads our Navajo Seamstresses United COVID-19 Dooda sub-initiative and responds to the needs of hospitals, first responders, police departments and care facilities to meet the shortages of masks, hospital gowns, surgical caps, hair covers, face shields and isolation bunny suits for direct Covid-19 patient care. "Every stitch holds hope and prayers to its recipient and it truly is a Labor of Love!"

Western Agency Chapters Served

Coppermine

LeChee

Tonalea

Kaibeto

Naatsis'aan

Shonto

Ts'ah bii' Kin

Bodaway/Gap

To Naneesdizi

Coalmine Canyon

Tolani Lake

Tsidii To

Leupp

Oljato

Dennehotso

Kayenta

Chilchinbeto

Chinle Agency Chapters Served

Hard Rock

Blue Gap/Tachee

Forest Lake

Black Mesa

Pinon

Whippoorwill Springs

Many Farms

Chinle

Tselani/Cottonwood

Nazlini

Lukachukai

Round Rock

Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock



Photo Credit: Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid

Date: April 8, 2020

Description: Volunteers of Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid unloading 8 tons of canned water donated to our relief effort from Can'd Aid. Klee Benally, Honorary Leadership Team Member and Key Partner from Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid is pictured on the right.

Ft. Defiance Agency Chapters

Low Mountain

Jeddito

Teesto

Dilkon

White Cone

Naschitti

Tohatchi

Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes)

Mexican Springs

Ganado

Steamboat

Crystal

Red Lake

Sawmill

Ft. Defiance (cont.)

St. Michaels

Fort Defiance

Houck

Tse Si'ani (Lupton)



Photo Credit: Diedra Peaches

Date: April 20, 2020

Description: Volunteer at Tuba City Correctional Facility unload donation of 48,000 cans of water from Jason Momoa's water company, Mananalulu, for distribution to Navajo and Hopi elders, immunocompromised, and struggling families.

Eastern Agency Chapters Served

Crownpoint

Mariano Lake

Torreon

Smith Lake

White Horse Lake

Manuelito

Littlewater

Tsayatoh

Thoreau

Pinedale

Chichiltah

Naageezi

Baca/Prewitt

Ramah

Shiprock Agency Chapters Served

Teec Nos Pos

Rock Point

Red Mesa

Mexican Water

To Likan

Aneth

Beclabito

Gadii'ahi

Shiprock

Hogback

Red Valley

Cove

Tse Alnaozt'i'i

Toadlena/Two Grey Hills

Shiprock Agency (cont.)

Newcomb

Sheep Springs

Upper Fruitland

T'iis Tsoh Sikaad (Burnham)

Nenahnezad

San Juan

Hopi Villages Served

Upper Moenkopi

Tewa

Lower Moenkopi

Sitchumovi

Bacavi

Mishongnovi

Hotevilla

Sipaulovi

Oraibi



Relief Team accepts donation of water from Jason Momoa's water company, Mananalú

Director: Diedra Peaches (Diné), Paper Rocket Scissors Productions

Key Partners

Kinlani/Flagstaff Mutual Aid

Rural Utah Project

Dig Deep

The Hopi Foundation



Photo Credit: Walton Yazzie

Date: April 22, 2020

Description: Chinle Team in full-out PPE making its initial distribution to elders, immunocompromised, and struggling families.

Contact Information

Toll-Free Number and Help Request Hotline: 1-833-956-1554

Help Request Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMcnYWc7ucAXYU9LGND99bpxBjYZGsSh3H-pUHZVyBZwFpHg/viewform>

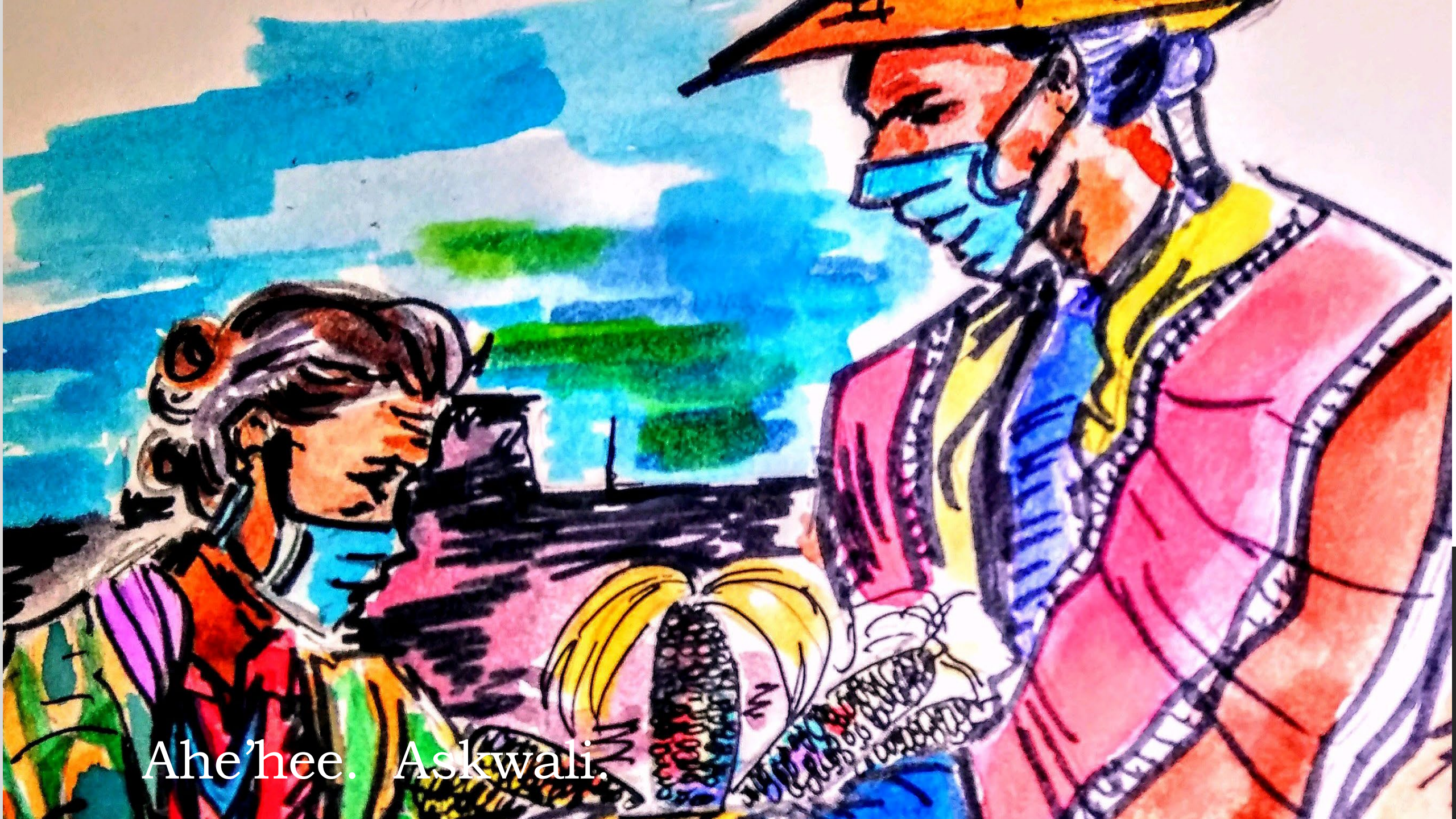
Volunteer Sign-Up Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqiiBCpBU-djm9Nj2CLVFolqVZ21yenrIWK47UKVSRF1Mi9w/viewform>

Address: Yee Ha'oolniidoo, c/o Navajo & Hopi Families Relief, 323 S 600 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84102

Website: <https://www.navajohopisolidarity.org/>

Facebook Group Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/214813476301051/>

GoFundMe Campaign: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief>



Ahe'hee. Askwali.

Cascading Effects of the Pandemic in Native Communities

Perspectives from the Midwest
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe

Philomena Kebec

Covid is having a huge impact, even where no infections have been detected.

- Overdose deaths
- Housing evictions, inability to pay rent
- Unemployment spiking
- Covid-vulnerable families (multi-generational households, family members in and out of jail, untreated SUD)
- Exacerbation of the “epidemic of loneliness”
- Casino closures

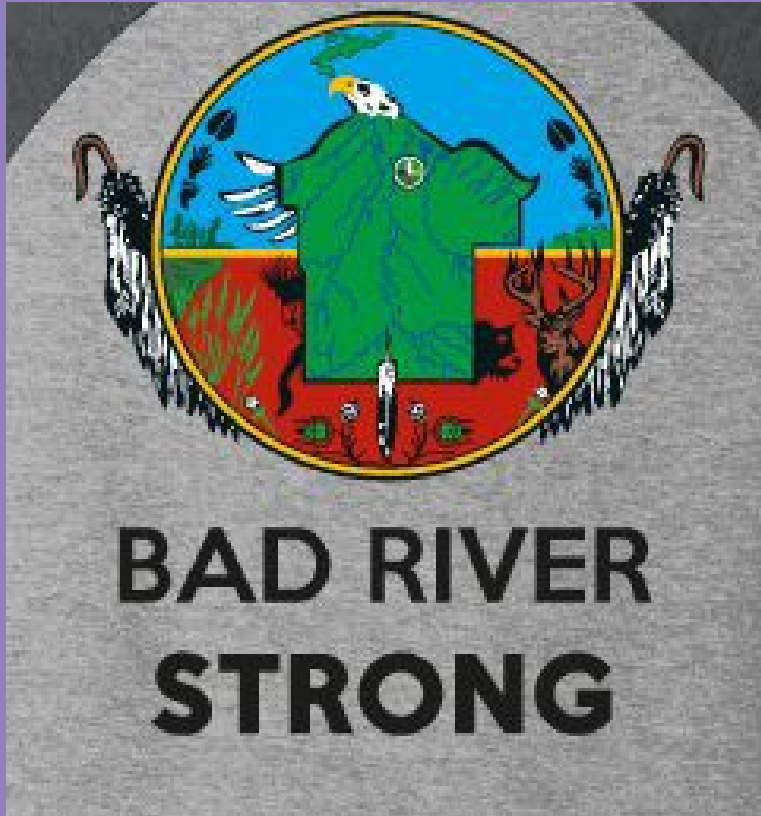


Background on Gwayakobimaadiziwin Bad River Needle Exchange

- Formed in 2014 after too many beautiful Bad River Ojibwes died of drug overdoses
- Provides outreach, resources and support to people who use drugs within our region
- Sixty-five percent of participants are Native women
- Run by volunteers and program participants, with funding administered by the Bad River Tribal Government



2020 Trends



- January - February – reports of overdoses were increasing, demand for naloxone
- March - May – reports of overdoses increased over Jan-Feb rates, demand for naloxone and injection supplies NEVER HIGHER, overdose deaths, death by assault
- June - August – decreasing reports of overdoses, decreasing demands for injection supplies, reports of many community members seeking out SUD treatment

Multigenerational families are experiencing existential emergencies

- Trends in housing evictions – older relatives of people who use drugs (PWUDs) are being targeted for evictions from public housing
- Child welfare removals and the jailing of parents – leaving grandparents/aunties/uncles taking care of children with few resources (childcare, nutrition support, etc.)
- Unemployment delays



Grandmas and grandpas –the
Bad River safety net – are
particularly vulnerable

Urgent National Level Policy Changes Needed

- Extend the federal eviction moratorium – unconditionally
- Reform to federal housing laws/regulations to protect families experiencing SUD
- Increased funding for IHS, tribal governments, unemployment relief, childcare assistance, nutrition supports
- Removing barriers to accessing buprenorphine

I'm encouraging *all attorneys who can* – study landlord-tenant law and volunteer to defend evictions

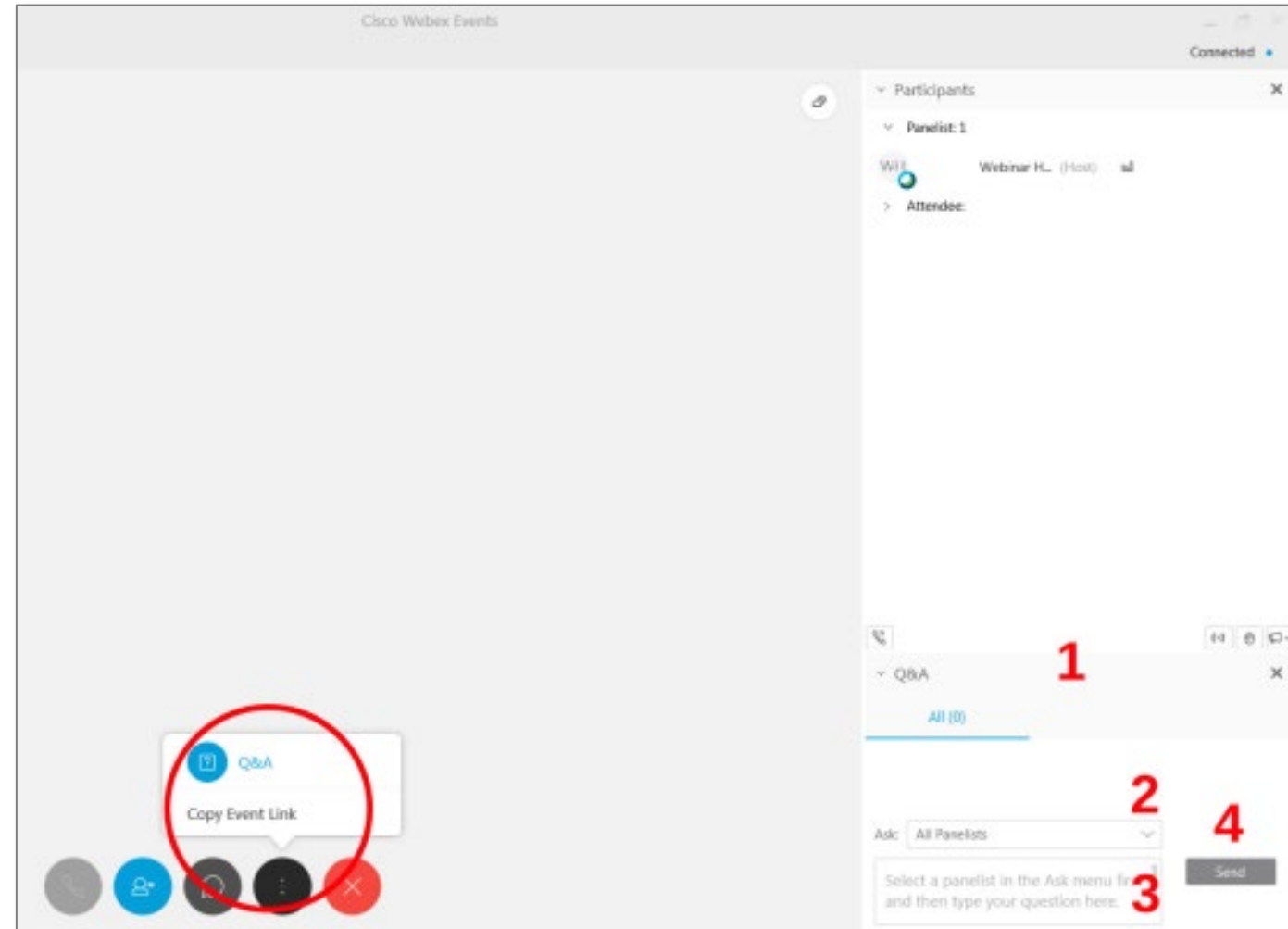
Miigwetch!
Thank you
for listening!

Philomena Kebec, J.D.
pkebec@glifwc.org



How to Use WebEx Q & A

1. Open the Q&A panel
2. Select “All Panelists”
3. Type your question
4. Click “Send”



Thank you for attending

For a recording of this webinar and information about future webinars, please visit networkforphl.org/webinars

2020 Public Health Law Virtual Summit

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

September 16 – 17, 2020

networkforphl.org/summit



You may qualify for CLE credit. All webinar attendees will receive an email from ASLME, an approved provider of continuing legal education credits, with information on applying for CLE credit for this webinar.

