

# Navajo Nation Tribal Action Plan



***“Empowering and Strengthening Healthier Generations”***

# Navajo Nation Tribal Action Plan

## **“A Collaborative Effort”**

- Introductions
- Who’s involved?
- Funding Sources
- Data
- History: 1990-1991 Tribal Action Plan
- Tribal Action Plan Meetings
- Draft: Goals/Objectives
- Upcoming Plan
- Website

**“THANK YOU”**

# Who's Involved?

- Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health
- Navajo Nation Office of Dine' Youth
- Navajo Nation Youth Council
- Navajo Nation Division of Social Services
- Navajo Nation Judicial Branch
- Navajo Nation Peacemaking Program
- Navajo Nation Division of Health
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Indian Health Services – Navajo Region

**Collaboration**  
&  
**Commitment**

# Funding the TAP Development



Navajo Nation Judicial Branch

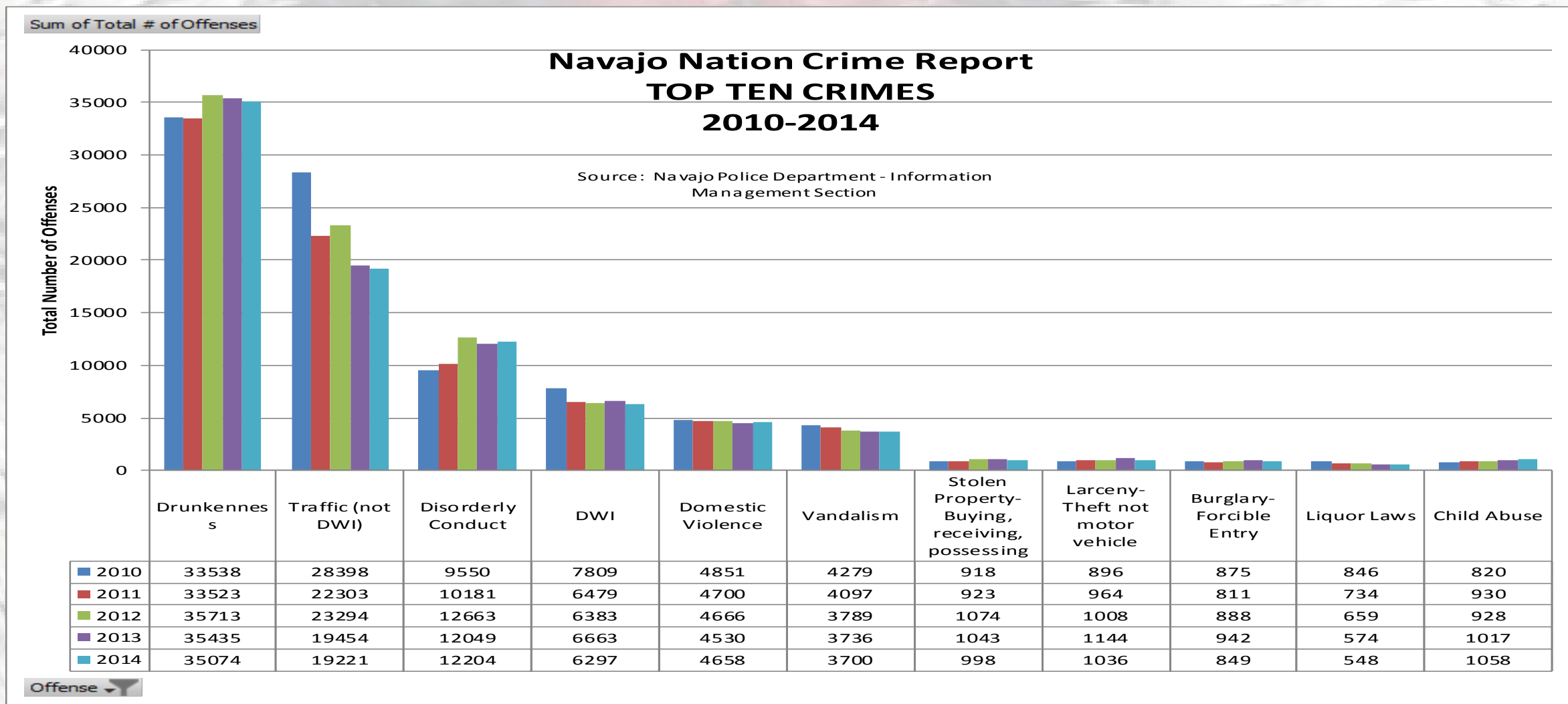
United States Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Assistance

Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services

Indian Health Services – P.L. 93-638

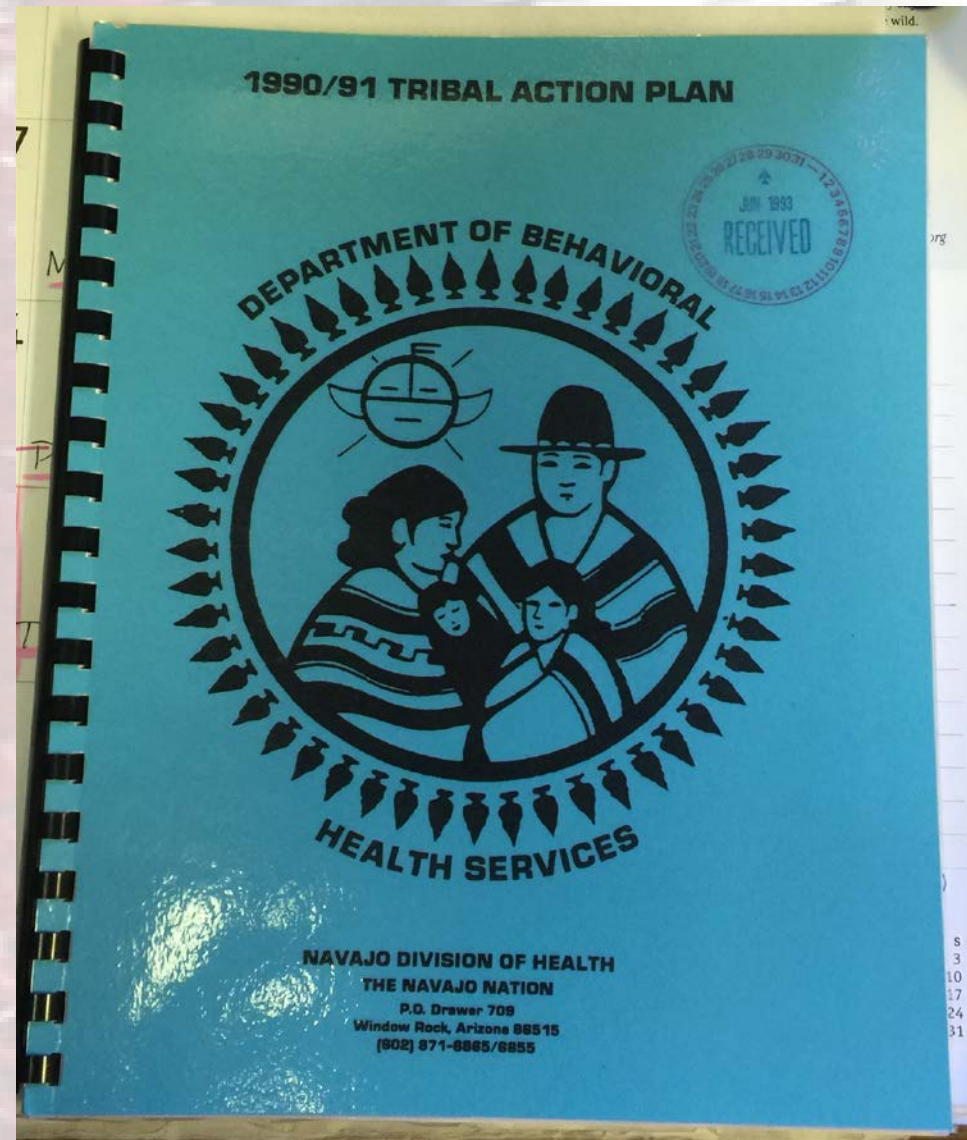


# Data: Top 10 Crimes on Navajo



# History

A Tribal Action Plan was created in 1990 and approved under Legislation CO-68-90.





# Navajo Nation Tribal Action Plan (TAP)

## Criminal Justice Summit, Fall 2015:

- The goals of the summit were:
  1. Incorporating Peacemaking into the criminal justice system
  2. VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Implementation steps on the Navajo Nation
  3. Improve access to behavioral health services and support services for pretrial and post conviction offenders.
  4. Strengthening victim services in Navajo Nation (SORNA, DV)
  5. Strengthening recruitment and retention of Navajo attorneys in the justice system
  6. Ascertain whether the Navajo Nation should adopt the Tribal Law and Order Act or find other alternative solutions.
  7. Developing re-entry programs for Navajo for adults and youth.

# Criminal Justice Summit, Fall 2015:

The Criminal Justice Summit in Fall of 2015 had representation from all judicial districts. Those in attendance did a Fears/Needs assessment exercise that identified our top fears and needs as:

1. Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse
2. Substance Abuse
3. Suicide
4. Lack of Resources: law enforcement and prosecutors





May 13, 2016:

Navajo Nation  
President Begaye and  
Chief Justice Sloan  
sign a joint letter  
directing both  
branches to work  
together on one tribal  
action plan.





THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT  
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAVAJO NATION EMPLOYEES  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND JUDICIAL BRANCH

FROM:   
Russell Begaye, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

  
Allen Sloan, Acting Chief Justice  
Navajo Nation Judicial Branch

DATE: May 13, 2016

SUBJECT: TRIBAL ACTION PLAN

The Navajo Nation is working hard to address a multitude of health, violence and educational disparities facing our Diné people. We continuously find ourselves duplicating work, which leads to doing more work and overlooking certain areas. Instead we need to find a way to fill those gaps and find better solutions.

Part of our recent effort to address this issue is to have our governmental branches work together on the development and submittal of a Tribal Action Plan (TAP). Moreover, TAP serves as a comprehensive plan to address the following:

- Suicide prevention and post-vention
- Health data gathering and sharing
- Crime
- Violence
- Educational issues: dropout rates,
- And others.

Join us to create solutions that improve the quality of life of our people and the Nation. For more information, send your inquiries to our TAP project contacts: Yvonne Kee-Billison, Executive Staff Assistant at (928) 871-7001, [yvonnekeebillison@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:yvonnekeebillison@navajo-nsn.gov) and, Raquel Chee, Grants Administrator, Judicial Branch, (928) 871-7019, [rchee@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rchee@navajo-nsn.gov).

CC: Arbin Mitchell, Chief of Staff, Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

# Coordination of Federal and Tribal Agencies:

- SAMHSA and USDOJ have assigned Technical Assistance Providers to assist us in the development of the TAP: ONE document that will serve the purposes of both Federal agencies for funding.
- Unprecedented for this type of project in Indian Country.



# Tribal Action Plan Workshop

## August 1-3, 2016:

- Over 170 participants from all over the reservation
- Service providers, community members, non-profit organizations, Indian Health Service, Tribal Court Judges, youth and non-governmental agencies were represented.
- Youth Voice was represented.
- Fears/Needs Assessment
- Resource Mapping



# Tribal Action Plan Workshop 2 September 13-15, 2016



- Over 120 participants
- Navajo Nation, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Non-profits and Community Members Represented
- Goals and Objectives formulated

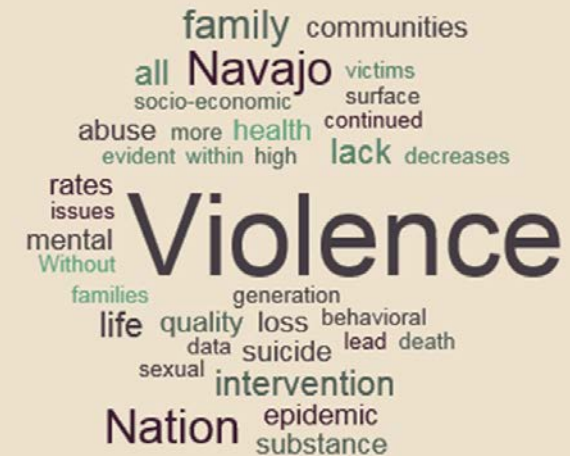
# Tribal Action Planning Meeting October 10-11, 2016

- 35 participants, mostly comprised of Planning Committee members
- Problem Statements
- Goals & Objectives
- Community Survey
- “TAP” Name Change



# Problem Statement: Violence

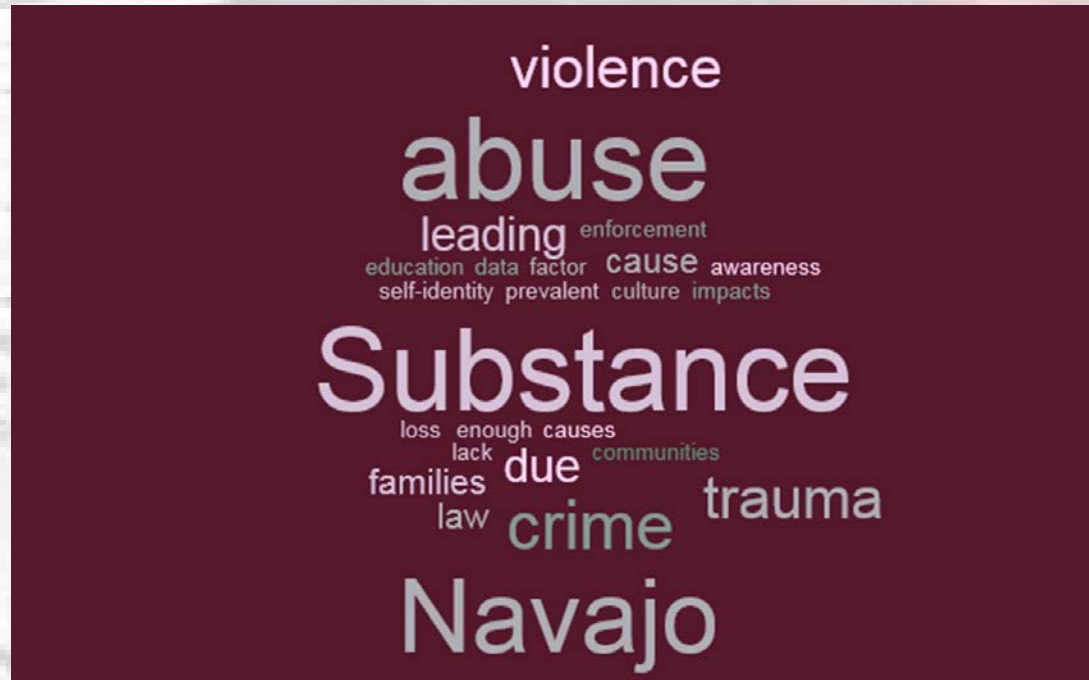
- Violence has reached an *epidemic* proportion on the Navajo Nation, creating a slow and inadequate systemic response to violent offenders. Without early and proper intervention, coordination of services, and education targeting learned behavior and mental health issues, violence within families and communities leads to a decrease in quality of life and a loss of culture, self-identity, kinship, and Hózhó. With these losses comes an increase in substance abuse, re-victimization, deaths and suicides, and the continued cycle of violence.



# Goals: Violence

- Nation will work towards decreasing violence by increasing prevention/intervention, rehabilitation and access to care
- Decrease violence by using culture and beliefs to develop trust and restore hózhó.
- Enhance technology to provide real time data and allow more sharing of information. Includes building of more cell towers
- Create the Navajo Data and Resource Center
- Develop and implement physical fitness plan for Navajo Nation
- Create a coalition to develop and draft effective legislation to increase efficient and effective services and law to decrease violence on Navajo Nation
- Agree to be open-minded, empathetic, remove barriers and cross-train to work together in treating the whole person.
- Agree to be professional and focus on strengthening both individually and collectively to overcome obstacles

# Problem Statement: Substance Abuse



- Ongoing substance abuse on the Navajo Nation leads to an increase in crime and violence, creates imbalance and family disharmony, and disrupts our Hózhó way of life, diminishing culture and identity. Limited resources have led to capacity issues with the criminal justice, education, and healthcare services creating challenges in addressing substance abuse-related issues across the Nation. Trauma, both as a cause and effect of substance abuse, needs to be addressed through comprehensive holistic and tailored treatment services.



# Goals: Substance Abuse

1. Develop “System of Care Principles” to increase collaboration of service providers on the Navajo Nation.

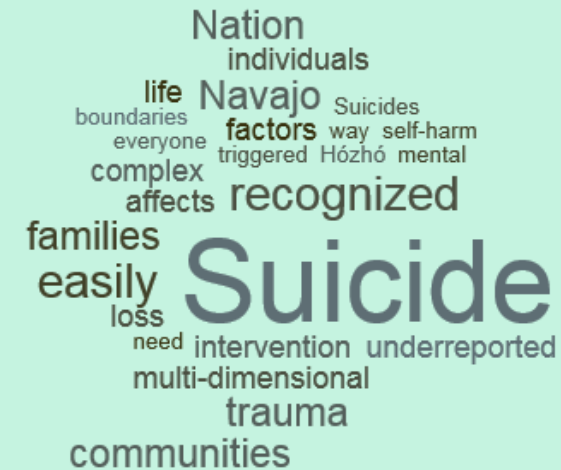
2. Promote mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically healthy lifestyles by providing Navajo families with effective services. (combination of 2 goals: Provide Navajo families with effective services to cultivate safe and healthy lifestyles

3. Increase awareness of substance abuse issues through education and outreach efforts by providing information in Navajo and English about the signs and symptoms of substance abuse and how to report concerns.

- More goals:
- Provide intervention services by collaborating with available resources to work toward correcting behaviors.
- Provide safety and justice on the Navajo Nation.
- Substance abuse treatment will be available to all eligible court-involved people.
- Navajo Nation will provide substance abuse treatment to all tribal members and their families.
- Promote cultural, family, and individual values for substance abuse-free lifestyles.
- Provide on-going training and support to all service providers.

# Problem Statement: Suicide

- Suicide is the needless loss of life, which causes a ripple effect of trauma, grief, and loss on individuals, families, and communities on the Navajo Nation. It is caused by an imbalance of one's mental, physical, environmental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Suicide has reached epidemic proportions and affects Navajo people indiscriminately. The multi-dimensional and complex factors that lead to suicide are not easily recognized and are often underreported and untreated, which creates challenges in providing effective treatment and awareness. Without access to adequately-funded behavioral, mental, and social health resources, education, prevention, and intervention, dis-harmony will continue leading to loss of life or permanent injury.



A word cloud visualization on a light green background. The most prominent word is "Suicide" in large, bold, dark blue font. Other words in various sizes and orientations include: "Nation", "individuals", "Navajo", "factors", "recognition", "complex", "affects", "families", "easily", "loss", "need", "intervention", "underreported", "multi-dimensional", "trauma", "communities", "life", "boundaries", "everyone", "complex", "affects", "families", "easily", "loss", "need", "intervention", "underreported", "multi-dimensional", "trauma", "communities", "Suicides", "way", "self-harm", "triggered", "Hózhó", "mental".

# Goals: Suicide Prevention

- Educate all Navajo people on suicide signs/symptoms and effects on families
- Develop local plans on prevention and outreach services to meet the high priority needs of the local community
- Provide suicide prevention training and education to all communities and agencies on Navajo Nation
- Strengthen cultural awareness to our Diné youth and people to deepen understanding of cultural practices through K'é and respect and access to language programs.
- Implement 2006 health commitment act.
- Identify crisis response team needs for each district across the Nation



## **Upcoming Plans:**

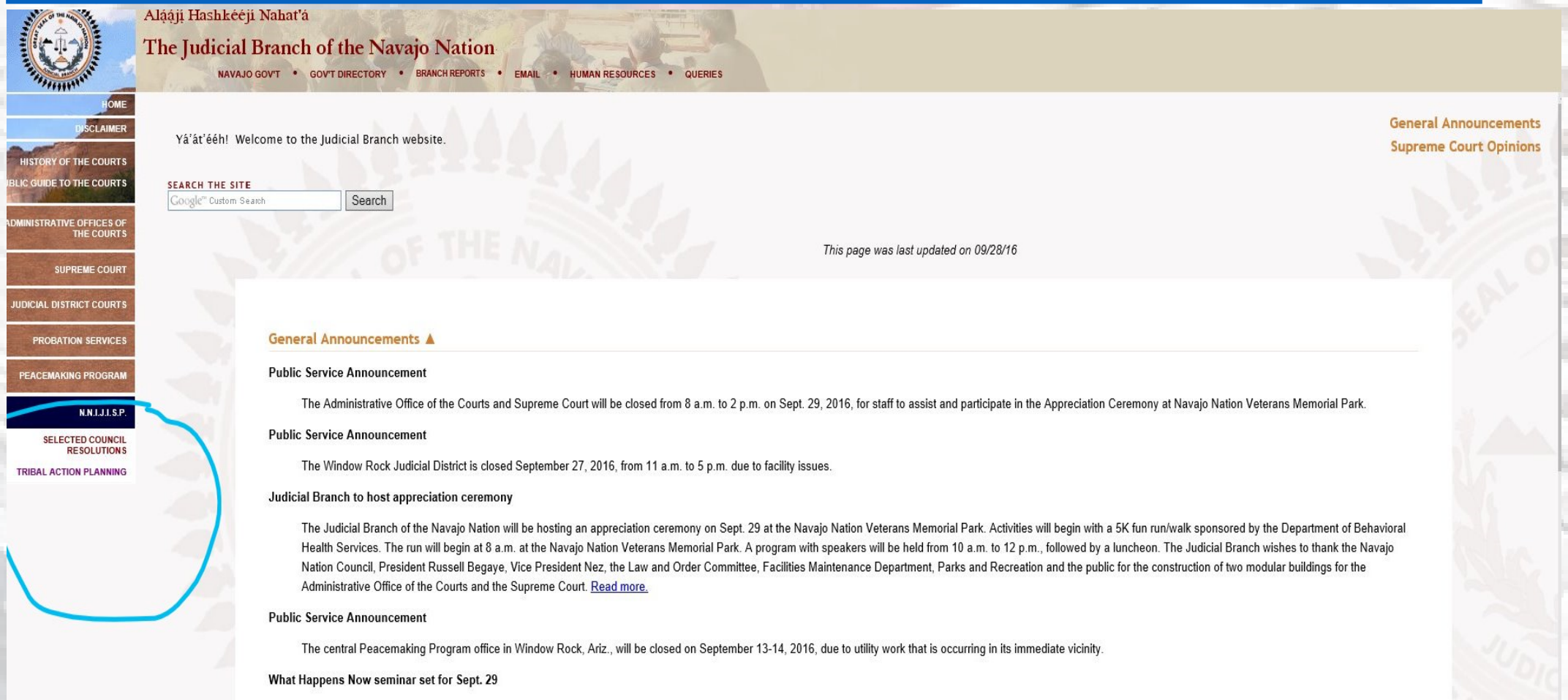
**Goal 1: Appoint the TAP Advisory Council.**

**Goal 2: Have Tribal Action Plan developed and presented as Legislation to the NNC.**

**Goal 3: Utilize Tribal Action Plan for priority funding for CTAS 2017 funding cycle.**

# Tribal Action Plan Website:

- <http://www.navajocourts.org/TribalActionPlan.html>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Navajo Judicial Branch website. The header includes the Navajo seal and the text "Alááji Hashkééji Nahat'a The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation". A navigation menu on the left lists various sections, with "TRIBAL ACTION PLANNING" circled in blue. The main content area features a search bar, a "General Announcements" section with a triangle icon, and several public service announcements. A blue circle highlights the "TRIBAL ACTION PLANNING" link in the left sidebar.

Alááji Hashkééji Nahat'a  
The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation  
NAVAJO GOVT • GOVT DIRECTORY • BRANCH REPORTS • EMAIL • HUMAN RESOURCES • QUERIES

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HISTORY OF THE COURTS  
PUBLIC GUIDE TO THE COURTS  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE COURTS  
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N.N.J.J.S.P.  
SELECTED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS  
TRIBAL ACTION PLANNING

Yá'át'éeéh! Welcome to the Judicial Branch website.

SEARCH THE SITE  
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This page was last updated on 09/28/16

**General Announcements ▲**

**Public Service Announcement**

The Administrative Office of the Courts and Supreme Court will be closed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 29, 2016, for staff to assist and participate in the Appreciation Ceremony at Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park.

**Public Service Announcement**

The Window Rock Judicial District is closed September 27, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. due to facility issues.

**Judicial Branch to host appreciation ceremony**

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation will be hosting an appreciation ceremony on Sept. 29 at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park. Activities will begin with a 5K fun run/walk sponsored by the Department of Behavioral Health Services. The run will begin at 8 a.m. at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park. A program with speakers will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by a luncheon. The Judicial Branch wishes to thank the Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Nez, the Law and Order Committee, Facilities Maintenance Department, Parks and Recreation and the public for the construction of two modular buildings for the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Supreme Court. [Read more.](#)

**Public Service Announcement**

The central Peacemaking Program office in Window Rock, Ariz., will be closed on September 13-14, 2016, due to utility work that is occurring in its immediate vicinity.

**What Happens Now seminar set for Sept. 29**

# Navajo Nation Tribal Action Plan

## TAP Project Leads:

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