

Site Visit from the CDC Prevention Research Program Office

Linda J. Peñaloza, Ph.D.



CAC members Sally Ruybal, Carol Johnson and Hank Haskie joined the PRC staff to meet with Dr. Simoes.



Marla Pardilla interpreting (Navajo) for Dr. Simoes at the Baca Senior Center.

On April 22 and 23, the PRC hosted three visitors from the CDC PRC program office: Dr. Eduardo Simoes Director of the Prevention Research Centers Program in the Division of Adult and Community Health (Since February 2003); Margaret Kaniewski, Public Health Analyst with the Prevention Research Centers Program in the Division of Adult and Community Health serving as a project officer for New Mexico's PRC and eight other prevention research centers; and Demia Sundra, Associate Service Fellow at the Prevention Research Centers office, in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC.

On the first day of their visit, Dr. Simoes, Ms. Kaniewski, and Ms. Sundra visited the Teen Centers at Laguna-Acoma (see *related story on page 7*), traveled to Wingate to visit with Navajo Elders at Elderfest to learn about the PRC's demonstration research project, Healthy Path at Baca Senior Center. They

experienced the excitement of living and traveling in New Mexico when they were caught in a lengthy traffic jam and dust storm on I-40 east of Grants, providing them with additional context for our work in rural areas of our large state.

On the second day of their visit, the three were hosted at the PRC offices, spending the morning in detailed conversations with PRC staff about current projects, future ideas, skills and experiences. They also discussed Project DEFINE in detail. At noon, the entire PRC plus a number of our partners hosted a healthy potluck and social. We demonstrated our website and activities database during that social event, allowing time for one-on-one explorations of our excellent IT products. After lunch, the entire group of partners, PRC staff and CDC visitors sat down to discuss the PRC's many partnerships around the state and the importance of those partnerships to New Mexico.



18th Annual Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention And Control

Leslie Cunningham-Sabo, Ph.D.

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The PRC was well-represented at the 18th National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Investing in Health: The Dollars and Sense of Prevention, February 18th – 20th, 2004 in Washington, D.C. This annual conference brings together the work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chronic Disease Directors from across the United States, and the Network of Prevention Research Centers (PRC). CHPDP Director, Sally M. Davis, Ph.D., not only attended the conference and prior meeting of the PRC Directors, but she also participated in a workshop presentation entitled “Research Utilization: Findings from Prevention Research.” Other CHPDP faculty and staff attending the conference included Gilbert Quintero, Ph.D, Leslie Cunningham-Sabo, Ph.D., Christine Hollis, M.A., Theresa Clay, M.S., Linda Beltran, M.S., Linda J. Peñaloza, Ph.D., and Jeffery Peterson, Ph.D. candidate. Deepika Attygalle, M.D., International Visiting Scholar from Sri Lanka attended, as did two of our Community Advisory Council members, Mr. Vinton Zuni from the Zuni Healthy Lifestyles Program and Mrs. Anna Rose Jones, Health Educator for the Navajo Nation Eastern Area (*see related articles in this issue*).

Chronic Disease Conference: Perspectives from Vinton Zuni and Anna Rose Jones

Linda J. Peñaloza, Ph.D.

The primary message of the conference, according to Community Advisory Council member Vinton Zuni, was partnerships and collaborations. Vinton reported that there was an enormous amount of information provided at the conference, beginning with a planning session for the National Community Committee (NCC) the afternoon before the conference began. The NCC initially met in Crystal City (outside of Washington DC) last fall to begin the discussions of how to form a 501c3 (a non-profit organization status) and to create bylaws. In April, the group met again to share information on the progress of the NCC and its initiatives to form the 501 C3, to create bylaws, goals and objectives, to secure long term funding, and to review its communication and composition. This group is devoted to building partnerships and programs across a broad spectrum of communities.

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In the general sessions, Vinton reported that he particularly enjoyed the opening plenary, led by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. In this session, the point was made about the importance of establishing partnerships and communicating within communities and nationally about prevention activities.

In the breakout sessions, Vinton focused on those sessions addressing building partnerships, working collaboratively, sharing information on collective programs, and the evaluation of coordinated school health programs. He came away from the 4 days in Washington with many ideas and practical plans for implementing coordinated school health programs in Zuni, New Mexico.

Anna Rose, also a Community Advisory Council member, reported that she had a very positive experience in Washington DC, and that the trip opened her mind to new ideas and possibilities. In particular, she found the messages of the conference reinforced the belief that physical fitness is an extremely important way to prevent illness. Physical fitness and nutrition both need to be taught more in programs such as Head-start, teaching individuals about the importance of understanding what they eat and how to live healthy.

Anna Rose Jones attended sessions that addressed important topics for her: a report on a physical fitness intervention program in Navajo schools, and how to work with elderly individuals in their physical fitness and range of motion. She spoke with many other



Anna Rose Jones and Vinton Zuni

conference attendees, and came away with a lot of information about arthritis in particular, which she put to good use this year in Crownpoint, for a 2004 Men's Health Conference held on April 13, 2004. She reported that the people at the conference were pleasant and kind, shared interesting ideas with her, and loved to talk.

On the personal side, both Vinton and Anna Rose found a little time after sessions to explore the Washington DC area. Vinton particularly enjoyed a dinner with other Center folks at an Ethiopian restaurant several blocks from the conference center. Anna Rose went even further afield, taking the Metro to Chinatown to look for dinner. She was not successful finding a good restaurant there, and returned to the conference center wishing for good ol' Navajo mutton stew. But her experience was exciting and took her to a place she had never been before.

Both Anna Rose and Vinton were expressed their gratitude to Dr. Sally Davis and the staff at the PRC for the invitation and opportunity to attend the CDC Chronic Disease Conference. For Vinton, it was a return to a place he used to live. For Anna Rose, it was as far from the fields of her home as she could imagine.

PRC's "Fact Sheet" Series

The PRC has developed a new series of informational flyers called "Facts About..." The series translates current research findings into improved public health policies and practices.

Titles to date are:

#1: Facts About: Physical Activity and Academics.

#2: Facts About: Preventing Obesity: The Role of Physical Activity.

Both are available at our website:

hsc.unm.edu/chpdp/publications/fctsheets.htm.



Nat Cobb: Going the Extra Mile—on a Bicycle

Marla Pardilla, M.P.H., M.S.W., and Elizabeth Van Mil, Ph.D.

Dr. Nathaniel Cobb, a member of the Center's Community Advisory Council, has been involved in providing health care to American Indians in New Mexico for a long time. He grew up in Corrales and accompanied his father, an IHS physician, in providing health care to Navajo, Apache and Pueblo people in the late 1950's. His father attempted to ensure that his patients were immunized, for the first time, against diseases that had ravaged their communities in the past. Nat is making similar inroads in attempting to reduce health disparities, by providing education and cutting-edge diagnostic methods and treatment for cancer. Nat helped to train 80 cancer survivors to develop support groups for themselves and others diagnosed with cancer, to avert stigmatizing victims as some communities have done in the past.

Nat is highly qualified, both personally and professionally, to understand what this requires. When his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, he found that his relationship with his mother as her son was more important than his medical training. He actively seeks to make cancer screening available to American Indian people throughout the country through an active partnership with the CDC Cancer Prevention and Control Program. An important part of his work includes educating people about how to prevent cancer through programs on tobacco control and how to make important lifestyle changes.

Before he entered medical school at Harvard, Nat worked as a river guide on the Colorado River and taught Outward Bound classes for eight years in the U.S., Mexico and Europe. He continues to remain active with cycling as a passion by participating in cycling events as well as running, canoeing and kayaking. His interest in physical activities was recently combined with his work as a physician advocating for reducing the disparities in American Indian health.

From October 11 to 18, 2003, he rode in the coast-to-coast one week cycling venture, the Tour of Hope, sponsored by the Lance Armstrong Foundation and Bristol-Myers Squibb. "The ride was a rare opportunity to combine my personal and professional life, have an adventure, and ride with Lance," he said. "Riding from Los Angeles to Washington with that group of cancer survivors, providers, and researchers confirmed in my mind that we are doing the right thing by focusing on cancer survivors in Indian communities." The event was meant to convey specific messages: to raise the awareness of the American public about the advantages of clinical trials, especially for Native American people, to make clinical trials more available to those in poor and rural communities, and to emphasize for the public how important it is to have cancer research. The overall message of the Tour of Hope is that research is our hope for the future if cancer is to be beaten; research made it possible for nearly 9 million people in America to survive cancer. More

people are needed to participate in clinical trials so that life saving cures can be found.

Dr. Cobb and his wife, Sarah, who works for Representative Tom Udall, have two sons, and live in Corrales. More information about the Tour of Hope can be found on the web at <http://www.tourofhope.org>. At this site, visitors are invited to sign the "Cancer Promise," as a personal commitment to become better informed about cancer, and this can be in honor of someone as well. You can read Nat's personal account of the Tour at <http://www.nmcycling.org/TOH.htm>.



Lance Armstrong and Dr. Nathaniel Cobb.

PAHL Project Update

Theresa Clay, M.S. and Nicolette Teufel-Shone, Ph.D.



Present at the meeting included: UA PRC Michael Lebowitz, Nicolette Teufel-Shone, Lisa Staten, Rosie Stewart, Kerstin Reinschmidt, UNM PRC Sally Davis, Theresa Clay, Michele Suina, Mary Dillon, and Leslie Trickey.

An update to the winter, 2003, Volume 2, Issue 3, page 9 in "The Connection," the University of New Mexico (UNM) Prevention Research Center (PRC) was awarded a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Participatory Action for Healthy Lifestyles (PAHL) project. The third year (2004-2005) of the grant we will be working at the regional level with the University of Arizona (UA) Prevention Research Center (PRC). We will also continue the partnerships with the local level, the community of Crownpoint, New Mexico and the state level working with the New Mexico Department of Health.

At the regional level we had our first planning meeting in Tucson, Arizona at the University of Arizona's Prevention Research Center on March 12, 2004. The partnership was very well received and we spent the day working out the action plan for the UA PRC PAHL project.

During the meeting we reviewed the Pathways study,

the PAHL overall goals, objectives, research aims, and our current partnerships with Crownpoint and the New Mexico Department of Health. The rest of the meeting was spent working on a feasible action plan.

Currently we are in the process of hiring a full time Project Coordinator to be stationed in Flagstaff, Arizona and working closely with Nicolette Teufel-Shone to get the project underway.

There was a PAHL/Pathways booth at the Indian Health Service Research conference during May 11-13, 2004 in Scottsdale, Arizona to recruit American Indian schools and communities in Arizona to be a part of the PAHL project and to work with the UA PRC on investigating the dissemination and utilization of the school-based nutrition and physical activity intervention, Pathways.

For more information about PAHL, contact Theresa Clay at (505) 272-4462.



New Mexico Poll: Prevention Research is Important

Linda J. Peñaloza, Ph.D.

This spring, New Mexico's PRC and our Community Advisory Council worked with Research!America to design a poll of New Mexico residents. The poll was conducted by Harris International in February. Results demonstrate New Mexico residents' support for increased funding for public health research. Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of residents believe that the current spending level for prevention research—less than one cent of every health care dollar—is not enough. Most (71 percent) say they would support doubling or more than doubling public health research funding.

The poll also shows that 76 percent of New Mexico residents would support increasing the state's tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products (currently 91 cents per pack of cigarettes) to fund public health research. At the same time, 82 percent of residents believe that money received by the state from the tobacco settlement should be spent on research to find cures for and prevent all diseases.

"While medical research and treatment enable Americans to live longer and healthier lives than ever before, far too many people die each year of diseases that could be avoided through prevention," stated Representative Tom Udall in response to the poll findings. "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that obesity will soon overtake cigarette smoking as the leading cause of preventable death in America. Being overweight or obese makes people far more likely to develop a whole range of deadly health problems, including diabetes, heart disease and cancer, and prevention is the key. I believe we must explore prevention and treatment approaches that can help combat health problems and at the same time lower the cost of rising medical care."

The poll also revealed public support for other health-related research and funding:

- 94 percent of New Mexico residents believe it is important to study the relationship between lower income households and minorities and increased health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and infant mortality.

- 75 percent think that the tobacco settlement funds should be used to fund programs to prevent tobacco use. Three out of four people believe that public health research focused on tobacco use should be a top priority or at least a high priority.
- 77 percent trust federal, state, tribal and local public health departments to inform them about benefits from research on healthy lifestyles such as physical activity, eating a healthy diet and not using tobacco. Half (51 percent) trust traditional health practitioners including medicine men and curanderos.
- Residents identify cancer (97 percent), diabetes or high blood sugar (95 percent), heart disease and stroke (92 percent), HIV/AIDS and respiratory diseases (89 percent) as top or at least high priorities for public health research.

"This poll illustrates that New Mexico residents clearly value promoting better health for everyone regardless of economic status," said Phil Eaton, vice president, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, "Clearly, the citizens of this state see the importance of investing public funds in disease prevention, which will ultimately save lives, reduce suffering and save money."

"Prevention and public health research are finding ways to protect and promote health," said Mary Woolley, president of Research!America. "With adequate support, prevention research can be a crucial force in preventing disease and disability."

The poll also found that New Mexico residents are willing to put their vote behind increases to improve access to health care including prescription drugs (88 percent). A full 87 percent of those polled said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports increased funding for research to find cures and prevent disease. Support for education and job creation (both 91 percent) topped the list when choosing candidates.

Home in the RIB

Linda J. Peñaloza, Ph.D.

We are excited to tell you about our new offices in a brand new building on the UNM HSC campus. We are even more excited to have all our staff from the PRC housed together in one place. It feels great to be together!

The Health Sciences Center (HSC) is just finishing building the new Research Incubation Building (RIB) – a two story, 29,000 square foot research facility. The PRC moved into the building while it was still being finished, in January this year. This new building represents an important step in the UNM Health Science Center's (HSC) long term plans for fostering new interdisciplinary collaborations and projects that address the health priorities of New Mexicans. The PRC occupies the first floor of this new building along with other UNM faculty and staff. As the name suggests, the strategy is to utilize the RIB as an incubator for several groups that can stimulate transdisciplinary research and help launch collaborations and new projects. These programs will benefit by being located in an institutional environment that draws together translational research and collaboration around health issues that are important to New Mexicans.

The Center's role in the RIB will be to create a bridge

Teen Center Site Visit

Peou Lakhana, M.S.W.

On April 22, 2004 three CDC program reviewers from the Prevention Research Centers Program, including the Director, Dr. Simoes, conducted a site visit with one of the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (CHPDP) community programs, the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Teen Centers (Teen Centers)(see *related article on page 1*).

The Teen Centers are school-based health centers, located in the Laguna-Acoma Middle/Senior High School (LAHS) and on the campus of To'Hajiilee Community School (TCS). The program began 20 years ago when the Pueblo of Laguna asked CHPDP to address issues of community concern—teenage pregnancy and suicidality. Since then, the Teen Centers have developed, in collaboration with the three American Indian communities, a more comprehensive program that includes screening, health educa-

tion, alcohol prevention services, and preventive clinical services such as mental health and primary care.

The CDC program reviewers met with prevention and clinical staff at LAHS, as well as the Principal of LAHS, Phil Gregory, and the Program Coordinator at Laguna Middle School (LMS), Mike Chambers, to discuss Teen Centers Services. The LAHS Principal expressed his enthusiastic support for the Teen Centers, sharing his story about being a coach and teacher 17 years earlier when teen suicides numbered 4 to 5 per year, and how this exacted a devastating toll on him, other teachers and everyone in the community. He said that things are very different now, as there are very few completed teen suicides, and that much of this is due to the effectiveness



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of the Teen Centers' collaborative work with the schools. The Coordinator at LMS described his long standing relationship with the Teen Centers, noting how Teen Centers have been instrumental in helping the Pueblo of Laguna develop a Children's Code, providing evidenced-based prevention curricula in a culturally appropriate manner, and reestablishing HIV prevention and sexuality education in a way that engaged the students without offending the parents. When asked by Dr. Simoes about their future plans, Teen Centers' staff replied that most of them intend to pursue higher degrees and all want the Teen Centers to continue to flourish.

The next day, the reviewers met with CHPDP community partners. The Teen Centers invited Dr. Steve Adelsheim, Child Psychiatrist, who is an Associate Professor with the UNMH Department of Psychiatry, and the Director of School Mental Health Programs with the New Mexico Department of Health. Dr. Adelsheim, who serves as a clinician with the Teen

Centers providing psychiatric consultation and services, discussed his role and experience in helping the Teen Centers develop culturally-relevant adolescent mental health programs, as well as enhancing community collaboration. He recommended that, in terms of policy, the CDC consider including mental health as a prevention goal, as effective treatment of children's mental health issues can decrease or prevent more serious adult behavioral issues.

The CDC program reviewers were delighted to see the impact Prevention Research Center (PRC) status has in "leveraging" the Teen Centers' ability to attract other funding support (increasing a budget of approximately \$100,000 in 1997 to a current budget of over \$800,000). They were also pleased to see how the CHPDP logic model is implemented at the community services level in providing preventive services in American Indian communities, and, (of course) enchanted by the beautiful rural vistas that are uniquely New Mexican.

New Center Research: Prescription Drug Abuse among College Students

Gilbert Quintero, Ph.D.

New Mexico's Prevention Research Center (PRC) recently received a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to move forward on an important component of the overall PRC research agenda. This new grant, "The Social Context of Collegiate Prescription Drug Abuse," will expand Center capacities in tobacco, alcohol, and substance abuse prevention.

Inappropriate use of certain prescription drugs is increasingly becoming a public health concern. Traditionally college students have been at the forefront of trends in drug use, however, public health researchers currently have very little reliable data on the non-medical use of specific prescription drugs among this population. Accurate surveillance and epidemiological data are limited by lack of a detailed understanding of the situations in which college students misuse prescription drugs. There is also little known regarding the language college students use to describe drugs and drug use behavior.

Led by the Associate Director, Dr. Gilbert Quintero, a research team will conduct a three-year study of collegiate prescription drug abuse in two phases. First,

researchers will interview 120 college students who have used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons within the last year. This phase of the study has three goals: (1) to explore the social and cultural factors related to prescription drug use, (2) to investigate attitudes, behaviors, and terms used by college students who use prescription drugs, and (3) to explore the risks and negative outcomes that college students associate with prescription drug use.

In phase two, findings from this in-depth exploration will then be used to develop a more accurate survey on collegiate prescription drug abuse than currently exists. This survey will then be given to a sample of 300 college students between the ages of 18 and 25 to gather further information about drug use patterns and associated health risks.

Ultimately, results from this in-depth study will lead to the creation of better tools for gathering epidemiological and surveillance information about collegiate drug abuse and provide a foundation for the development of more effective drug abuse prevention and intervention models.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on April 6, 2004

Marla Pardilla M.P.H., M.S.W.

The CAC members, Sally Ruybal, Vinton Zunie, Anna Rose Jones, Carol Johnson and Lonnie Barraza met for the quarterly meeting with Dr. Sally Davis. Marla Pardilla (505-272-3940) was introduced as new staff at PRC who will be coordinating the CAC activities. The committee discussed the 2004 Special Interest Projects (SIPs) and made recommendations. Dr. Linda J. Peñaloza made a presentation about Research America! training and poll results (see *related article on page 6*) that was sponsored by the PRC for UNM staff and local community organizations; some CAC members attended the training on March 30. The committee networked and enjoyed the build-your-own taco buffet. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2004 at 12 to 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.



PRC Staff Updates:



John Barela, a native of New Mexico, moved to Albuquerque in 1999 in order to attend classes at The University of New Mexico. In May of 2004 John graduated *cum laude* with a BS in Statistics from the University of New Mexico. His studies focused on linear models, categorical data, sampling, and probability. John is currently a member of KME (math honor society), and has been accepted to the Graduate Program at the University of New Mexico. He plans to start classes in the fall in pursuit of a Masters degree in Statistics. John joined the PRC in June of 2004 as a Professional Intern, and will be primarily assisting the Business Office on various projects.

Bonnie Young, MPH student, moved to Albuquerque in 2003 from Nevada. She has been with the PRC since April of 2004, and is currently working on The Social Context of Collegiate Prescription Drug Abuse project with Gilbert Quintero and Jeff Peterson as a research assistant. Bonnie contributes to this ethnographic study, funded by NIH, by gathering formative data on prescription drug behaviors and patterns of students at the UNM. She will be involved in qualitative data collection, management, analysis, and development and pilot testing of a survey instrument.



Bonnie received her BS degree (Anthropology and Environmental Studies) from Santa Clara University in June of 2003. She has traveled the globe, including an archaeological excavation in Turkey, medical fieldwork in Mexico, and community health research in Costa Rica.

Bonnie aspires to become a medical anthropologist and research the environmental and cultural impacts of health on rural communities within New Mexico and Latin America.



PRC Staff Updates-Cont'd:



Deepika Attygalle, M.D. Dr. Attygalle came to the PRC in January 2004 to begin her one year appointment as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Deepika is a Specialist in Public Health at the Family Health Bureau in Sri Lanka. The Family Health Bureau is the national level focal point for all maternal and child health activities and programs in Sri Lanka. During this year, Deepika looks forward to gaining experience in how to develop community partnerships and effective outreach programs, as well as conducting research in health promotion and disease prevention. In this regard, Deepika wishes to learn more about programs in maternal and child health, neonatal care, early childhood development issues, and health promotion activities for adolescents. Deepika's academic background includes receiving a Master of Science in Community Medicine in 1998, her M.D. in 1992 from the Medical Institute of Pavlov in Leningrad (she is fluent in Russian), and her M.D. in Community Medicine in 2002 from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Nalika Gunawardena, M.D. Dr. Gunawardena came to the PRC in January 2004 to begin her one year appointment as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Nalika is a Lecturer in Community Medicine, Department of Community Medicine, as a member of the Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. During her time in New Mexico, Nalika looks forward to gaining experience in research and developing programs in health promotion and disease prevention, and in how to develop community partnerships and to design and implement outreach programs aimed at improving the health of underserved community groups, as well as counseling services that aim at life style changes to promote health. Nalika's academic background includes a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and her Master of Science and her M.D. in Community Medicine.



JoAnn Lameman JoAnn selected the PRC as her enrichment site because she wanted to "explore and experience" the basis of prevention research at the center. She feels that Registered Dietitians and community nutritionists play a major role in prevention because their focus is to improve the quality of life with optimum nutrition and prevent nutrition-related diseases. While she was at the Center, she worked with Dr. Leslie Cunningham-Sabo and the Healthy Path staff in developing the Healthy Path program for Native American seniors. She also received orientation to other prevention research studies, community health education, program evaluation and dissemination of information. "As a dietetic intern, I learned to appreciate prevention research. Since my involvement with Healthy Path, I observed that the Navajo Nation/NAAA and the PRC have a good working relationship, thus my perception towards research has changed for the better. I conclude that my experience at the PRC was very rewarding."

Announcements:

Marla Pardilla receives Governor Richardson's Award

Each year since 1985, the NM Commission on the Status of Women in conjunction with the Governor's Office have been recognizing 20 women yearly for community leadership and effectiveness of advocacy for positive change for women and families in New Mexico. On May 7, 2004, Marla Pardilla was honored as one of these leaders. Marla was recognized for outstanding contributions to the Native American community on the local and national level. She is founder of Native Research Network, a national society of Native researchers. Marla is the coordinator for "The Connection" newsletter and also a research scientist working on the Healthy Path project at PRC. Dr. Sally Davis, was likewise honored by Governor Gary Johnson in 1999.



Future CAC Members:



Leah Renee Marr-Lyon made her entrance on September 8, 2003, weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. Her proud parents are Mark Lyon and Lisa Marr-Lyon. Lisa is a Health Scientist with the UNM PRC.

On January 26, 2004 **Alyssa Yvonne Garcia**, weighing 6lbs. 7 oz., was born to parents Rito and Yvette Garcia. Yvette is an Administrative Assistant 2 with the PRC's Business Office.



Casey and Lora Church are happy to announce arrival of **Bahozhoni Kii Church**. He was born on March 18, weighing 8 lbs. 14 oz. Parents are Navajo and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Tribes. Lora is a Prevention Program Manager with the ACL Teen Centers.





The Connection is a production of the newsletter workgroup:

Sally Davis, Ph.D.
Linda Peñaloza, Ph.D.
Marla Pardilla M.P.H., M.S.W.
Elverna Bennett, B.A.
Andrew Rubey, B.F.A.

The Connection is a quarterly newsletter that features programs, provides updates, reports on program activities and announces upcoming events for the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center and the Community Advisory Council. Direct inquiries and correspondence to Marla Pardilla by mail or by phone.

Prevention Research Center
MSC 11 6145
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131
Office Telephone: 505-272-4462

The University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center (UNM PRC) is one of 28 Prevention Research Centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop and carry out scientifically-based, innovative chronic disease prevention research to improve the health of Americans. The mission of the UNM PRC is to address the health promotion and disease prevention needs of New Mexicans through participatory science-based research and through collaboration, training, dissemination, and evaluation activities. The UNM PRC has a long history of partnering with communities in New Mexico and the Southwest. The UNM PRC has a Community Advisory Council (CAC), whose members serve in an advisory and advocacy capacity, and represent the public health interests and concerns of New Mexico communities. Through collaboration and communication, these two entities work together to carry out the goals of the Center.



The University of New Mexico

Prevention Research Center
MSC 11 6145
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

