



**The Navajo Nation** **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*  
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 8, 2023

**CONTACT:**

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**Press Conference Re Operation Rainbow Bridge Updates on Displaced Navajo People**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Monday, June 12, under the direction of Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, the Navajo Nation will host a press conference to provide an update on Operation Rainbow Bridge, the Nation’s coordinated effort to safely transition Navajo individuals displaced in the wake of recent Medicaid fraud in Arizona. The update will be provided by Thomas Cody, Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Executive Director and Operation Rainbow Bridge Commander, and Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch.

Operation Rainbow Bridge, which began in early May, is the Nation’s response to the recent and ongoing displacement of hundreds of Navajo people in the wake of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System’s suspension of funding for 102 mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation facilities for which a credible allegation of fraud has been raised.

As part of the Operation, the Navajo Nation has been providing support in the transition of care for displaced Navajo patients to credible care providers, or in assisting them with returning home to the Navajo Nation if they no longer wish to receive treatment.

The press conference will take place Monday, June 12 at 1 p.m. Mountain Standard Time at the offices of Husch Blackwell at 2415 E. Camelback Road, Suite 500, Phoenix, Arizona, 85016, and via Zoom.

The Navajo Nation government is committed to continuing its efforts to support displaced Navajo patients and to ensure that they receive the assistance they need to thrive. The Nation is also committed to ensuring that these actions are never repeated.

The Navajo Nation is grateful for the ongoing support of its partners in this effort and will continue to work with them to ensure that displaced Navajo victims receive the support they need.

For more information, please contact Tasheena Begay in the Office of the Attorney General at [tbegay@nndoj.org](mailto:tbegay@nndoj.org) or 928-871-6345.

To join by Zoom, please use the following:

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