

# INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE



## 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# Division of Nursing Services

2021 was a year of rejuvenation and action for the Division of Nursing Services (DNS). With a new Division Director in place, DNS has worked to re-establish the division and steer nursing toward progress, accreditation, and recognition. This work has included launching new initiatives and collaborating with federal partners, internal and external stakeholders, and academia to maintain and renew crucial national nursing efforts. DNS is proud to share some of our 2021 accomplishments with you!

- Coordinated the signing of a **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** that allows medical, nursing, and graduate students at the **Uniformed Services University** in Bethesda, MD to do clinical rotations at IHS sites. While IHS has maintained a decades long relationship with USU, this is the first time that the MOA has included Nursing.
- Created a **Quarterly Newsletter for IHS Nursing** to highlight accomplishments and share news relating to nursing across the IHS.
- Implemented a **Nurse of the Month** recognition program to highlight the important contributions that IHS nurses make in caring for our patients and communities across the I/T/U.

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to read more about programs, the newsletter, job opportunities, and frequently asked questions.

- DNS has reengaged and strengthened the longstanding partnership with the National Nurse Leadership Council (NNLC) by collaborating and consulting with NNLC on important and impactful nursing issues from high level to front line hot topics such as the **Nursing salary increase**.



- Coordinated with **Baby Friendly (BF) USA** and IHS BF designated hospitals to maintain their Baby Friendly status by implementing the 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and the BFUSA Annual Quality Improvement Project. By sustaining BF hospital designation, this will reduce current and future medical problems and could translate into savings to our health care system through decreased hospitalizations and pediatric clinic visits. Eighty-nine percent of the IHS birthing hospitals are BF designated hospitals: Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility, Pine Ridge PHS Hospital, Zuni Comprehensive Health Care, Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility, Gallup Indian Medical Center, Northern Navajo Medical Center, Claremore Indian Hospital, and Whiteriver Service Unit.
- The **Public Health Nursing Program** reported critical patient encounters for communicable disease, surveillance, contact tracing, testing, patient monitoring, and vaccination activities. These efforts resulted in an overall increase in the number of PHN activities reported to address the COVID-19 crisis. The FY 2020 PHN Program target was 381,314 encounters; and the 391,738 patient encounters exceeded the target by 10,424 encounters reflecting a 3% increase.
- The **Public Health Nursing Grant Program awarded seven grants** for over \$1 million to improve specific behavioral health outcomes through a case management model with the PHN as a case manager. Focus is on patient care services for behavioral health and coexisting conditions such as chronic disease management, maternal child health care, and patient education services to improve health outcomes. Eighty-six percent of programs have established policies and procedures, and 43% are billing for PHN services to support sustainability.

- IHS partners with the **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)** to maintain and improve services through the use of professional consultation and provision of education and hands on training for all Obstetrics and Gynecology, Neonatal, and Women’s Health providers. This contract supported a Best Practices in Women’s Health virtual training, virtual site visits, and planning for the 7th International Meeting on Indigenous Women’s Health and the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics training for 2022.
- DNS sponsored a contract for **an online nurse training service, NetCE**, available to all IHS nurses and Area Nurse Consultants estimated for 2,000 nurses.
- DNS sponsored a contract for **Lactation Education Resource (LER)** to provide online breastfeeding and Baby Friendly Hospital training available for 1,200 staff to support the BF Hospital designation. Step 2 of the 10 Steps to successful breastfeeding is required staff education.
- **Northern Navajo Medical Center (NNMC) received the Gold Child Ready Certificate** from the University of New Mexico PedsReady team in June 2021. NNMC received FY 2020 IAA funds for training, education, and equipment needs. NNMC Pediatric Readiness core group states, *“We would have never achieved the PedsReady score increase of 94 from 59, without the assistance and generous support from your HQ group.”*
- The final **2021 National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) Assessment reported 78.3% participation rate from IHS and Tribal Emergency Departments (EDs)** in completing the pediatric readiness assessment. National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) reported an overall national average of 71% participation from EDs nationwide for 2021.



- The IHS/HRSA Emergency Medical Services for Children funding for Fiscal Year 2021 funded a contract with **Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) to build a hybrid simulation training program.** The simulation training program paired six Emergency Departments with Academic Medical Centers to implement a curriculum of in-person or tele-simulations to prepare emergency room physicians and nurses to become competent in the care of children and newborns during pediatric emergency situations. Sites participating in the program have designated a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) or Pediatric Champion to coordinate and implement pediatric specific activities such as pediatric care, education and training. The first year of the project includes Whiteriver Indian Hospital, Tsehootsoi Medical Center, Gallup Indian Medical Center, Zuni Comprehensive Health Center, and Rosebud Hospital.



- Eight IHS and Tribal Emergency Departments have been selected to participate in the **IHS Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) Initiative** to partner with American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and Geriatric ED Collaborative (GEDC) to receive guidance and support with application for Level 3 accreditation from GEDA.
- **The IHS EMSC Program is expanding its visibility** by collaborating with the nationally recognized EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC), representing IHS on interagency workgroups such as the HRSA lead Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) Evidence-Based Practice and Quality (EBPQ) Committee, and serving as the IHS stakeholder representative on the National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative (NPRQI) to ensure AI/AN children have access to high quality emergency care that meets national standards.
- Coordinated the purchase of **50 childbirth simulation models** enhancing emergency preparedness and training for IHS service units. The childbirth simulation models can be utilized for conducting mock codes/drills and for holding Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) courses at the service unit/area levels.

- Coordinated the purchase of **825 automatic blood pressure monitors** for patient home use, helping to remove barriers to access to care for pregnant and postpartum women requiring frequent monitoring.
- Stood up a multi-disciplinary **Maternal Child Health (MCH) workgroup** to promote enhanced communication and coordination of efforts between the service units, area offices, and IHS HQ MCH stakeholders.
- Represented IHS on the **9th International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health (IMICH)** Planning Committee and provided 33 presentation abstract reviews.
- Co-Lead on the **Pediatric Immunization Improvement Project** with six pilot sites to develop a toolkit for service units to focus on getting children caught up on their routine immunizations. This became the **Pediatric Immunization Collaborative** and is now available to all IHS service units for use.
- Maintained vital leadership roles in IHS-wide COVID-19 response efforts including providing project management for the **IHS Covid-19 Critical Care Response Team (CCRT)**. This included the coordination and facilitation for 13 deployments in calendar year 2021, resulting in nearly 1,000 unique learners receiving training during this year.
- Provided leadership for the **IHS Vaccine Taskforce-Vaccine Administration Workgroup** including developing best practices/processes for temperature monitoring, storage & handling, monitoring of inventory/wastage reports, and vaccine administration competency exams and provided IHS-wide webinars.



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