FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BEMIDJI AREA DIRECTOR – July 2012

Boozhoo!

I hope you are enjoying summer. I have certainly enjoyed long hot days with friends and family. Even the July 2nd storm, downed trees and 48 hours without power offered opportunities for caring and sharing.

AGENCY PRIORITY #1- RENEW AND STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIBES

Numerous Area meetings with Tribes occurred this past quarter, including:

April – The National Indian Health Outreach and Education Tribal Health Reform Training was held in Shakopee, MN. It was an opportunity to learn about and discuss education and outreach on the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Additionally, the Regional Veteran's Administration Consultation was held at Mystic Lake that same week. I saw a number of Tribal Leaders and Health Directors at these meetings. Additional information is available in other attachments to this email.

May – The Area held the FY2013 Pre-negotiation meeting in Bloomington, MN. The meeting covered Area updates, funding, tables, Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) fees, Buyback reports and services, negotiation topics, access to the Self Determination database, strategic plan update, Veteran's Administration MOA update, Contract Support Costs workgroup policy review status and education on the cycle, CHS workgroup recommendations and listening session, follow-up on video conference questionnaire, Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Meaningful Use of EHR (MU) status, behavioral health billing and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Tribal Advisory Board (TAB) questionnaire, website development and training. The meeting concluded with half a day of ACA training and discussion. You will find attached a copy of follow-up items from the meeting as well as the descriptions of the Meaningful Use and Pharmacy Clinical Applications Coordinator (CAC) services available for buyback this year. If you have questions please contact Deanna Dick deanna.dick@ihs.gov.

June – The Area Office hosted the quarterly Tribal Leader/Health and Urban Director/Staff orientation in Green Bay, WI on June 12th. We also had a day of training for Tribal Health Boards on June 13th. Materials will be posted on the Area website. I had the pleasure of spending June 26th at the Area Information Technology and Management Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. and then being a speaker on IHS updates and Prescription Drug Abuse at the BIA Midwest Region Partners in Action Conference on June 27th in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

The next Tribal Leader/ITU Program Director orientation will be at the Bemidji Area Office on September 12, 2012. Information on this meeting will be sent by separate email.

The Region V SAMHSA sponsored Prescription Drug Abuse Summit on June 29th in Bloomington, MN was well attended. Speakers on each of the four pillars of the White House plan provided valuable information that served as the basis for program and community staff to begin to develop a community action plan for their own local communities. Follow-up support calls will occur once per month to assist

communities as they move forward with their plans. On-going resource information will also be made available on-line. This issue was also discussed at the IHS National Combined Council meeting the week of July 10th. Information from that meeting will be included in the Tribal Consultation Summit to be held in Denver on August 7-8, 2012. Please see the IHS website for details.

Area updates were provided at the Michigan Tribal Health Director meetings.

AGENCY PRIORITY #2 -BRING REFORM TO IHS

Affordable Care Act – The Supreme Court Decision upheld the Individual mandate as constitutional under Congressional Tax authority as well as upholding the entire law including the reauthorization of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHCIA). The Agency continues to implement provisions of the IHCIA.

IHS implications include: Continued work on implementing ACA/Exchanges with HHS; Consultation on the Federal Exchange – what happens if States don't implement; Impact when States choose not to implement the Medicaid expansion - under review. Please see the DHHS consultation opportunities below where more information on the Federal Exchange and Medicaid Expansion will be provided.

Benefits for AIANs: Can still use Indian Health funded programs; will have more/better choices for insurance, with insurance protections. State Exchanges, Medicaid, Medicare, FEHB coverage means more resources for the Indian health system.

AGENCY PRIORITY #3 - IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND ACCESS TO CARE

Improving Patient Care Initiative (IPC) – We want to welcome two new sites into IPC-IV, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Peter Christian Health Center, Lac du Flambeau Tribe. They join the 3 federal services units, 3 Tribal programs and 2 urban programs as Bemidji Area IPC sites. Each site has a representative on the Area Improvement Support Team (IST) which meets once per month via conference call. We plan to have an Area IST meeting in early FY 13. Those programs who are not involved in IPC at this time but are interested should consider the Foundations Series. That start date is pending at this time but this information will be posted at http://www.ihs.gov/ipc/.

AGENCY PRIORITY #4 - ENSURE THAT OUR WORK IS TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABILE, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE:

The Area Office provided the first service reports to Tribes at the Pre-Negotiation meeting. This along with the development of an annual report will provide information that can be utilized in determining how Tribal and Urban programs work with Area Office programs.

I hope you have found this information helpful. Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have questions about any of these topics. You can reach us at 218-444-0452>

UPCOMING TRIBAL MEETINGS:

2012 IHS CONSULTATION SUMMIT – August 7-8, 2012 -www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/

Denver Marriot City Center
1701 California Street, Denver, CO 80202
Toll Free Phone: 877-303-0104
Local Phone: 506-474-2009

DHHS FEDERALLY FACILITATED EXCHANGES AND MEDICAID EXPANSION

JULY 26, 2012	**AUGUST 7, 2012**	**AUGUST 9, 2012**
Washington, DC	**Anchorage, AK**	**Denver, CO**
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**	**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
HHH Building: Room 800 200 Independence Ave. SW Washington, D.C. 20201	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium: Conference Rooms 1 & 2 4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508	Location: Denver In Conjunction with the Indian Health Service Tribal Consultation Summit

Exchange Blueprint: http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/Exchangeblueprint05162012.pdf.

Federally Facilitated Exchange Guidance:
http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/FFE_Guidance_FINAL_VERSION_051612.pdf

Bemidji Area annual I/T/U meeting for December 11-13 in Appleton, WI. We will also hold a Tribal Advisory Board meeting as part of the overall meeting.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

IHS Directors Blog - www.ihs.gov

Affordable Care Act – www.healthcare.gov

Bemidji Area IHS – www.ihs.gov/Bemidji/

Department of Health and Human Services www.DHHS.gov