



CALIFORNIA Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC)

CALIFORNIA AREA
INDIAN HEALTH
SERVICE

Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center

Construction Update

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On May 27th, the IHS Division of Engineering Services issued a certificate of substantial completion to Cox Construction making the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center the first IHS direct-service facility in the California Area. Prior to substantial completion, over 10 service contracts were issued in preparation for accepting operations and maintenance of the new facility. Contract examples include electricity, solid waste disposal, propane, pest control, as well as inspection, testing, maintenance and monitoring of fire protection and alarm systems. Now that the building is completed, we have scheduled furniture delivery and have begun to order supplies for the facility. Although the majority of the building construction is complete, there are still some small construction projects that have yet to be completed before doors can open to new residents.

Due to construction delays, we are now anticipating an early 2017 opening. We want to ensure that all staff are properly trained and that we are ready to provide services. We want to assure you that this delay will have no effect on our ability to send youth that need treatment to the sites we currently use. We will update all interested parties of our opening plans as they are finalized. In the meantime, please visit our website at <https://www.ihs.gov/california/index.cfm/yrtc-project/> for updates and the latest news.



If you would like more information about the YRTC, please contact:

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Preparations for Opening

To meet the educational component of the program, and in order to offer our youths a program that will enable them to transfer their credits back to their local school, we are researching local educational resources available that will serve this need.

Currently, we are putting the finishing touches in the classrooms, including placing desks, computers, Smart Boards, and stocking educational supplies.



The staff are working hard on getting all policies and procedures finalized, including the development of a training curriculum. Staff members will need to be trained in facility and practicing guidelines. Once fully staffed, the facility will employ up to 70 staff members who will require specific training in order to meet job requirements. The finalization of the policy and procedures, as well as the training curriculum, will ensure meeting the IHS, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and state licensing requirements.

The YRTC and Area Office staff have processed contracts and procured necessary equipment and supplies for the facility. We are in the process of receiving deliveries on a weekly basis. Our first shipment of furniture for staff offices, and the living and residents' quarters, has been delivered and placed, with the expectation of the next delivery scheduled for the week of September 12th. Staff computers, office supplies, copiers, and fax machines have been delivered and set up. Laundry equipment is being installed this week. We are currently awaiting the delivery of linens, towels, rugs, pot and pans, and kitchenware. Medical supplies and equipment have been ordered and are pending delivery.



Meet the Staff

June 27th was an exciting day for the YRTC as our five new staff members reported for duty. These staff members are part of the senior leadership team and will be responsible for the development of the program for the YRTC, as well as hiring all new staff members. These staff members went through a very detailed selection process that included interviews, background checks, and careful vetting and were selected for their expertise in their respective professions. They all bring special skill sets and knowledge to the YRTC and are all excited to be part of this new facility and are dedicated to the mission of the facility.

Emily L. Streeter, Psy.D., MPH, CPH
CDR, U.S. Public Health Service

Dr. Streeter is a licensed clinical psychologist. She currently serves as the Clinical Director of the Desert Sage YRTC. Dr. Streeter received her B.A., from Spelman College in 1994; M.A., and Psy.D., from the California School of Professional Psychology in 1996 and 1998 respectively; and MPH from the University of South Florida in 2012. Dr. Streeter began her career as a psychologist in 1998 with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Brooklyn, NY. She was promoted to Drug Abuse Program Coordinator and relocated to the Federal Detention Center (FDC) in Honolulu, HI in 2002. In 2004, she was promoted to Chief Psychologist at FDC Honolulu and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Public Health Service in 2005, while serving in that capacity. In 2009, she took an assignment at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton that would return her to her native California. In her 7 years at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Dr. Streeter held multiple positions including: coordinator of the Wounded Warrior Battalion- West Mental Health Outpatient Program; Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP) Department Head; and Deputy Director for Mental Health. She joined the staff of the Desert Sage YRTC in July 2016.



Marla S. Jones
Administrative Officer

Ms. Jones has been hired to fill the position of Administrative Officer. Ms. Jones brings to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center over 18 years of federal service with the Indian Health Service. For Albuquerque Area IHS, she served in the role of Administrative Officer at the Southern Colorado Ute Service Unit in Ignacio, CO, for six years, before joining the Area Office for nine years in the position of Management Analyst. She recently served in the position of Supervisory Management Analyst with the Nashville Area IHS for 3 ½ years before coming to Southern California and the YRTC. She brings extensive administrative knowledge and background in Federal/IHS processes and procedures, including expertise in financial management, personnel management, compliance requirements, contracting and procurement, and accreditation activity, in addition to facilitating and placing clinical processes and procedures for direct-care facilities under the Indian Health Service. Ms. Jones is a member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. She is excited about this opportunity to serve American Indian and Alaska Native youths.



Meet the Staff (continued)

Michael Cadena **Facility Maintenance Supervisor**

Mr. Cadena has been hired as the Facility Maintenance Supervisor. He previously served as a Facility worker for four years and a Facility Director for 21 years at the San Diego Native American Health Clinic. He is a licensed, level one treatment and distribution water operator and a class "B" bus/van driver, as well as being certified in disaster/emergency preparedness, I.C.S., F.E.M.A., C.E.R.T., and facilities management. Mr. Cadena is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and has worked closely with IHS throughout the years. He is happy to be part of our team and looks forward to making Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center a place that the native community can be proud of and being a positive role model for native youth.



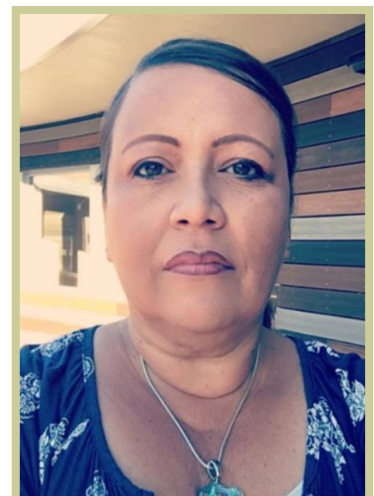
CDR Maya Gripper-Carroll **Supervisory Nurse**

CDR Gripper-Carroll is a Commissioned Officer in the Public Health Service Nurse Corp and employed with the Indian Health Service, California Area Office, Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center, Hemet, California, as the Supervisory Nurse. CDR Gripper-Carroll has been a registered nurse for 19 years, after receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Capital University in 1996. In 2006, CDR Gripper-Carroll graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Master's Degree in Health Administration. Before coming to Southern California and the YRTC, CDR Gripper-Carroll worked for the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service at New Sunrise Youth Regional Treatment Center.



Michelle Blackowl **Administrative Support Assistant**

Ms. Blackowl has been hired as the Administrative Support Assistant for the YRTC. She has served the Indian Health Service since 2005 and was the Administrative Support Assistant for the Escondido District Office prior to this reassignment to the YRTC. In support of the late Ms. Margo Kerrigan, California IHS Area Director, Ms. Blackowl was assigned many special projects, including coordination of Tribal Leaders Meetings and the YRTC supervision of property prior to construction beginning on the facility. Ms. Kerrigan encouraged Ms. Blackowl to continue her education and set goals; as such, she has completed her Associate's Degree in Business Administration and is currently working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. Ms. Blackowl is a member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma. She is excited to be working for the YRTC, as it is her dream to work with Indian youth.



Available Positions/Jobs

We encourage any interested applicants to go to the Federal Employment jobsite <https://www.usajobs.gov/> to review the position postings and apply for these positions. Over the course of the next few months, several jobs will be announced, including:

- **Intake/Aftercare Coordinator(s) - Currently opened on USAJobs.gov**
- **Residential Assistants (Social Services Assistants) - Currently opened on USA-Jobs.gov**
- **Supervisory Residential Assistant - Currently opened on USAJobs.gov**
- **Licensed Clinical Social Worker(s)**
- **Substance Abuse Disorder Counselor(s)**
- **Psych. Tech**
- **Clinical Nurse(s)/Psychiatric - Currently opened on USA.jobs.gov**
- **Licensed Vocational/Practical Nurse(s)**
- **Cultural Coordinator/Arts**
- **Recreation Specialist**
- **Custodial Worker(s) - Currently opened on USA.jobs.gov**
- **Food Service Worker(s)**

If you have any questions about any of the above positions, or need assistance with the application process, please contact Indian Health Service, Human Resources Department at 916-930-3981.
