



FROM THE DESK OF THE BEMIDJI AREA DIRECTOR

SPRING QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

Spring is slowly coming to our region, still a lot of snow on the ground, but gradually warming days are melting it and patches of grass are visible. ☺ The sunshine has been a real morale boost for many of us. Ending the uncertainty about the FY13 budget has also helped.

FY13 IHS BUDGET - Our FY13 budget was signed by the President on March 26th. We are currently receiving 30 days of allowances to cover the OMB apportionment period which will be distributed during the first weeks of April. The Bemidji Area Office hosted a call for ITU leaders on Friday, March 29th at which Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, IHS Director, explained the FY13 budget will be at the FY12 funding level minus a .02% rescission (\$8 M) and a 5% sequester (\$220 M). These cuts were not applied to the 30 days you will receive nor the first 6 months of funding received. Therefore the full year reduction will be taken from the final 5 months funding you will receive.

FY 14 PRE-NEGOTIATIONS - The annual Bemidji Area Pre-Negotiation meeting will be held in Traverse City, MI at the Grand Traverse Resort May 21 -22, 2013. The agenda is pending completion. Please direct questions to Carol White at 218-444-0453. We are proposing a change in how we present Tribal shares and would like your feedback. A letter is forthcoming this week.

M.A.S.T. LISTENING SESSION – Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, IHS Director held a listening session with attendees at MAST Impact week in Washington DC on Monday, Issues presented by Tribes were

M.A.S.T HEALTH BOARD – The newly elected Health Board held their first meeting in conjunction with the MAST Impact week meeting. Members are Michigan – Phyllis Davis, Gun Lake and Carole LaPointe, Keweenaw Bay; Minnesota – Carrie Jones, Leech Lake and Sam Moose, Mille Lacs; Wisconsin – Melinda Danforth, Oneida and Randy Samuelson, Lac du Flambeau.

URBAN REVIEWS – The Area Office conducted the annual Urban program reviews in Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee and Minneapolis in March. We want to thank the Program Directors and staff for their hospitality and the Area and service unit staff who participated in these on-site reviews.

QUARTERLY TRIBAL LEADER/HEALTH DIRECTOR/STAFF ORIENTATION - The next orientation is scheduled for April 17th here in the Area Office. We can also video conference with participants for those who are unable to travel to Bemidji. Notices were sent on March 15th. Please contact Deanna Dick at deanna.dick@ihs.gov if you wish to attend or have questions.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT - The Area continues ACA training support through the Tribal Education and Outreach Consortium (TEOC) U where Derek and Tanya Bailey and Jennifer Dupuis are participating in training in our Area beginning in April. Four sessions are scheduled and we will be scheduling additional sessions throughout the next seven months. The first scheduled session is April 4 and 5 in Walker, MN. This session focuses on opportunities for Tribes. A partner in this training will be the College of St. Scholastica School of Social Work. Jennifer Dupuis, Phil Norrgard, Dr. Alec Thundercloud, and State of Minnesota representatives will be presenters. Our next session will be at the pre-negotiation meeting in May. On June 20-21 a session will be held at Danbury, WI. focused on more specific information such

as training and certifying staff, sponsoring premiums, clarifying tax liabilities, and verifying Indian eligibility.

IPC/GPRA: We are completing the third quarter of the GPRA year on March 31st. If you or staff have questions regarding data, please contact Jason Douglas at Jason.douglas@ihs.gov or 218-444-0550; or Dr. Dawn Wyllie for clinical questions dawn.wyllie@ihs.gov or 218-444-0489.

The 10 IPC sites continue to work on being medical homes for patients and improving patient care. If you are interested in IPC, please contact Dr. Dawn Wyllie at dawn.wyllie@ihs.gov or 218-444-0489.

BEMIDJI AREA OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT - We hope you had the opportunity to review the Bemidji Area Annual Report 2012 distributed in early January. We would greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions for improvement.

TRIBAL LEADER REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL WORKGROUPS - We appreciate the work of all the Tribal Leaders who take the time to represent the Bemidji Area on the national committees. We are currently soliciting volunteers/nominations for the following committees:

Self Governance Advisory Committee - Alternate representative

CDC Tribal Advisory Committee – Representative and Representative Alternate

HHS Health Research Advisory Council - Representative

Hope to see at one of the upcoming meetings. Migwech.