



**Remarks by RADM Chris Buchanan
Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee Meeting (TLDC)
February 8, 2017**

Remarks as prepared

- Good morning and thank you all for joining us here in Crystal City.
- Thank you, Ann [Bullock] for organizing this meeting and look forward to hearing updates from the sessions today and tomorrow.
- First of all, I would like to thank all the members of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee for your continued efforts and hard work. The committee has a direct and important impact on our Native patients and communities.
- Diabetes prevention and treatment continues to be one of the highest priorities at the Indian Health Service and this effort could not be accomplished without the valuable input and lively discussions that this committee has put forth to date.
- I also want to acknowledge the work of this committee to help us process the Special Diabetes Program for Indians Fiscal Year 2017 funding plan.
- Many things have changed over the years that affect services, including medical and staffing costs, as well as shifts in American Indian and Alaska Native user population data. It's appropriate that SDPI is evolving to address these changes and equally appropriate to be reinvigorated for the work ahead.
- Your support to your respective Areas to assist those that applied for SDPI funding is also appreciated.

- We have much news to share, especially the joint announcement made last month with CDC's Vital Signs and the remarkable report on decreased diabetes related kidney failure by 54% among Native Americans.
- We are very proud of the work that Dr. Bullock and her team have done to amplify this exciting and positive news that highlights the work we do around diabetes treatment and prevention.
- The steep decline in diabetes-related kidney failure is good news for the population we serve, and Indian Health Service team-based coordinated diabetes care model can be used to reduce kidney failure in other populations.
- We can attribute this decline in diabetes related kidney failure to public health and population management approaches to diabetes accompanied by improvements in clinical care that have been implemented by IHS.
- Dr. Bullock was featured on various outlets including MedScape, Native America Calling and PBS's NewsHour. Congratulations and thank you for helping us spread the word about this tremendous achievement!
- IHS is excited to partner with TLDC to explore new pathways for preventing diabetes, heart disease and other problems which too often plague our communities.
- As we will discuss today, there is much good news about what we are already achieving as well as new avenues to pursue going forward that will make even more of a difference in our communities.
- As always, IHS remain committed to working closely with all of you.
- Again, I want to thank you for the significant work you do to prevent and treat diabetes in the communities we serve.

- Our ongoing success is due in large part to our strong partnership and your commitment to improving health care for the betterment of our patients.
- Thank you.