

Indian Health Service

All Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders Call

REAR ADM. CHRIS BUCHANAN

IHS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

NOVEMBER 7, 2019



Welcome



Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan
Deputy Director
Indian Health Service



Personnel Updates

- Capt. Kelly Battese – Acting Director, Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes
- Bryce Redgrave – Director, IHS Billings Area
- Jillian Curtis – Director, Office of Finance and Accounting



Capt. Kelly Battese



Bryce Redgrave



Jillian Curtis

IHS Director Position

- On October 22, President Trump announced his intent to nominate Rear Adm. Michael D. Weahkee to be the IHS Director - <https://go.usa.gov/xpbDV>
- While the nomination is under consideration, Rear Adm. Weahkee has stated that he will continue to serve in his current role at IHS and work diligently to provide quality health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives



IHS Budget Update

- The current continuing resolution runs through November 21
- Congressional marks for IHS's FY 2020 budget include:
 - House = \$6.3 billion (\$537 million above the FY 2019 budget)
 - Senate = \$6.0 billion (\$238 million above the FY 2019 budget)



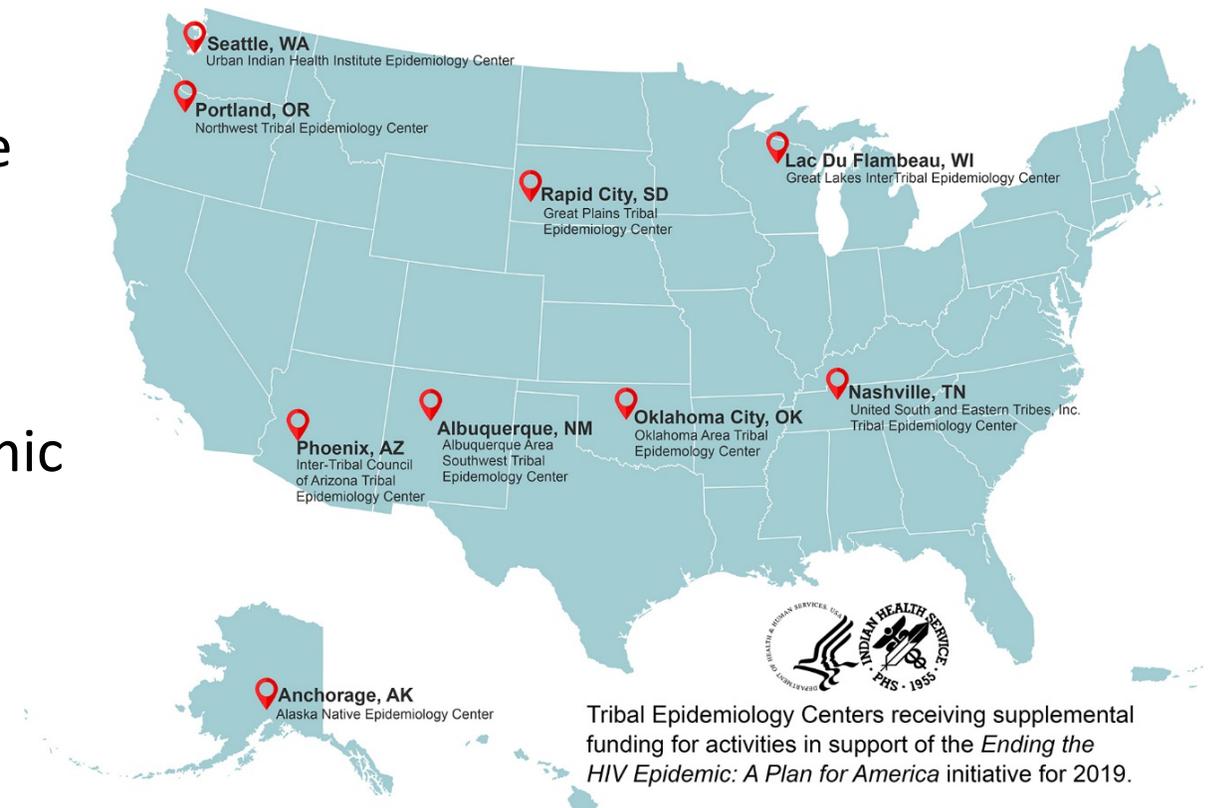
Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer

- On October 2, IHS initiated [tribal consultation](#) and [urban confer](#) on the distribution of funding for the IHS Special Diabetes Program for Indians in FY 2021
 - When tribal consultation and urban confer is complete, the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee will convene to review the comments and provide recommendations for the IHS to consider prior to making a decision
 - Comment submission deadline: **December 2**



TEC Awards

- IHS awarded \$2.4 million to nine Tribal Epidemiology Centers to support American Indian and Alaska Native communities in reducing new HIV infections and related co-morbidities, specifically hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections
- The centers will participate in regional and national-level coordination, provide technical assistance and disease surveillance support to communities, and support the development of community plans to end the HIV epidemic in Indian Country
- <https://go.usa.gov/xpoggG>



Small Ambulatory Program Awards

- [IHS awarded \\$15 million](#) in funding to eight tribes and tribal organizations as part of the Small Ambulatory Program to fund construction, expansion, or modernization of small ambulatory health care facilities

Recipient	Location	Amount	Type of Project
Central Valley Indian Health	Prather, CA	\$2,000,000	New Clinic
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Fort Hall, ID	\$2,000,000	New Clinic
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments	Arctic Village, AK	\$2,000,000	Replacement Clinic
Native Village of Kwinhagak (YKHC)	Quinhagak, AK	\$2,000,000	Replacement Clinic
Kickapoo Tribe	McCloud, OK	\$2,000,000	Expansion
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Okmulgee, OK	\$2,000,000	Expansion
Sac and Fox Nation	Stroud, OK	\$2,000,000	Expansion
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Seattle, WA	\$1,000,000	Expansion/Modernization

Recent Events

- October 17: Roundtable with the Department of Labor, Office of Minority Health, NIHB, and Administration for Native Americans at IHS headquarters
- October 21-22: President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS meeting in Miami



CHAP roundtable



PACHA meeting

Recent Events

- October 26: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
- October 30: House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Health hearing: 'Native Veterans' Access to Healthcare' – Ben Smith's testimony: <https://go.usa.gov/xpYf5>



*Drug Take Back Day collection site
at Phoenix Indian Medical Center*



Ben Smith testifying

Recent Events

- Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum site visits in the IHS Great Plains Area



Congresswoman McCollum visit to Rosebud

November Observances

- American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month
- American Diabetes Month
- November 11-15: Forensic Nurses Week



Upcoming Events

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 12: NIHB Board Meeting

November 14: American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month Event at HHS Headquarters – Washington, D.C.

November 20: Webinar – Health IT Modernization Project

November 21: National Rural Health Day Event – IHS Headquarters – Rockville, MD

November 21: Current continuing resolution expires

December 1: World AIDS Day

Upcoming Area Budget Consultations

November 6-8: Navajo Area Budget Consultation – Flagstaff, AZ

November 12-13: Oklahoma City Area Budget Consultation – Oklahoma City, OK

November 13-14: Billings Area Budget Consultation – Billings, MT

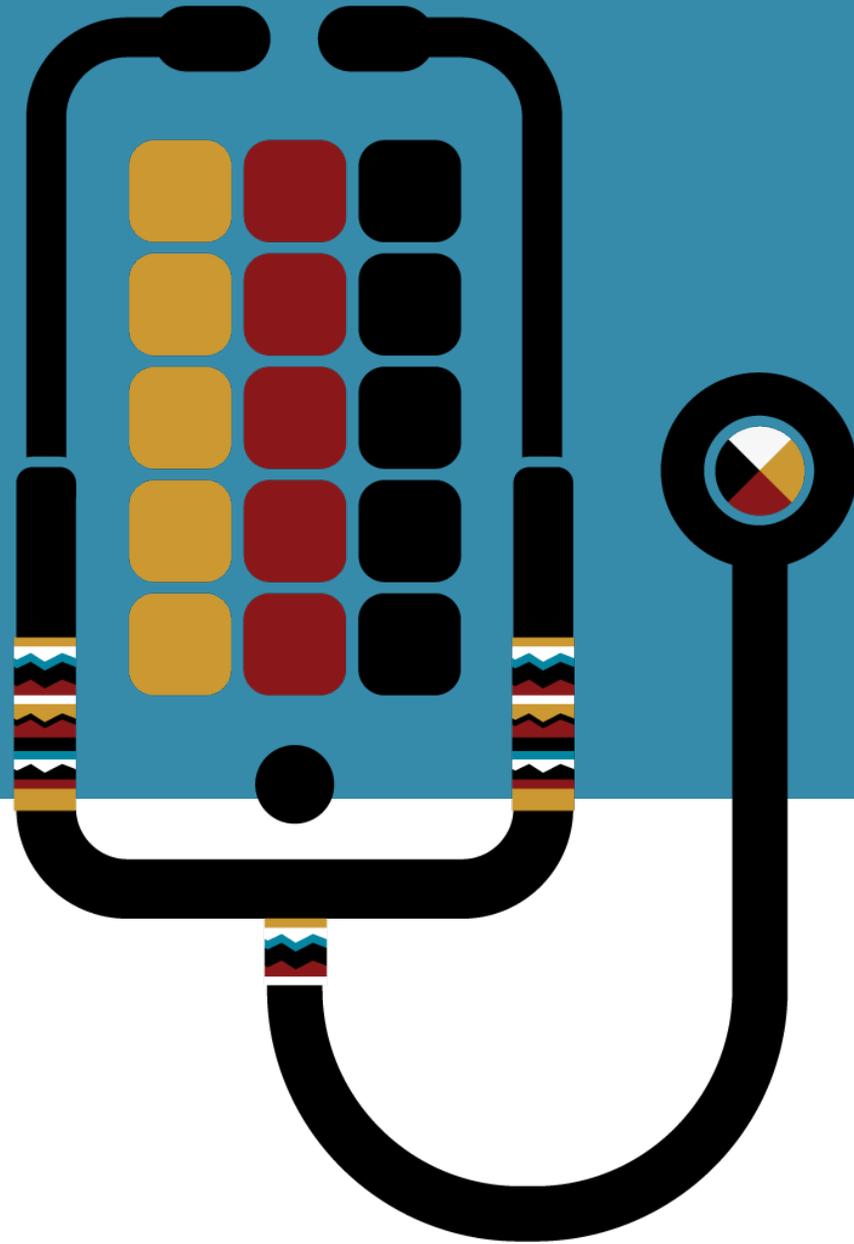
November 14: Portland Area Budget Consultation – Portland, OR

December 3: Nashville Area Budget Consultation (2nd meeting) – Virtual

December 4: Phoenix Area Budget Consultation – Location TBD

December 4-5: Bemidji Area Budget Consultation – Green Bay, WI





HHS // IHS

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MODERNIZATION

PROJECT

Project Final Report | November 2019

Project Purpose and Objectives

*“IHS must create and execute a strategy to modernize its EHR system and the IT systems necessary to support it”**

Context

- IHS serves **2.6 million** American Indian and Alaska Native people
- **Underfunding of HIT** within IHS has hindered the organization’s ability to keep pace with user requirements and market solutions
- **The VA’s decision to migrate away from VistA is a catalyst** for IHS to investigate EHR alternatives
- **IHS must act swiftly** to modernize its aging HIT system

Project Objectives

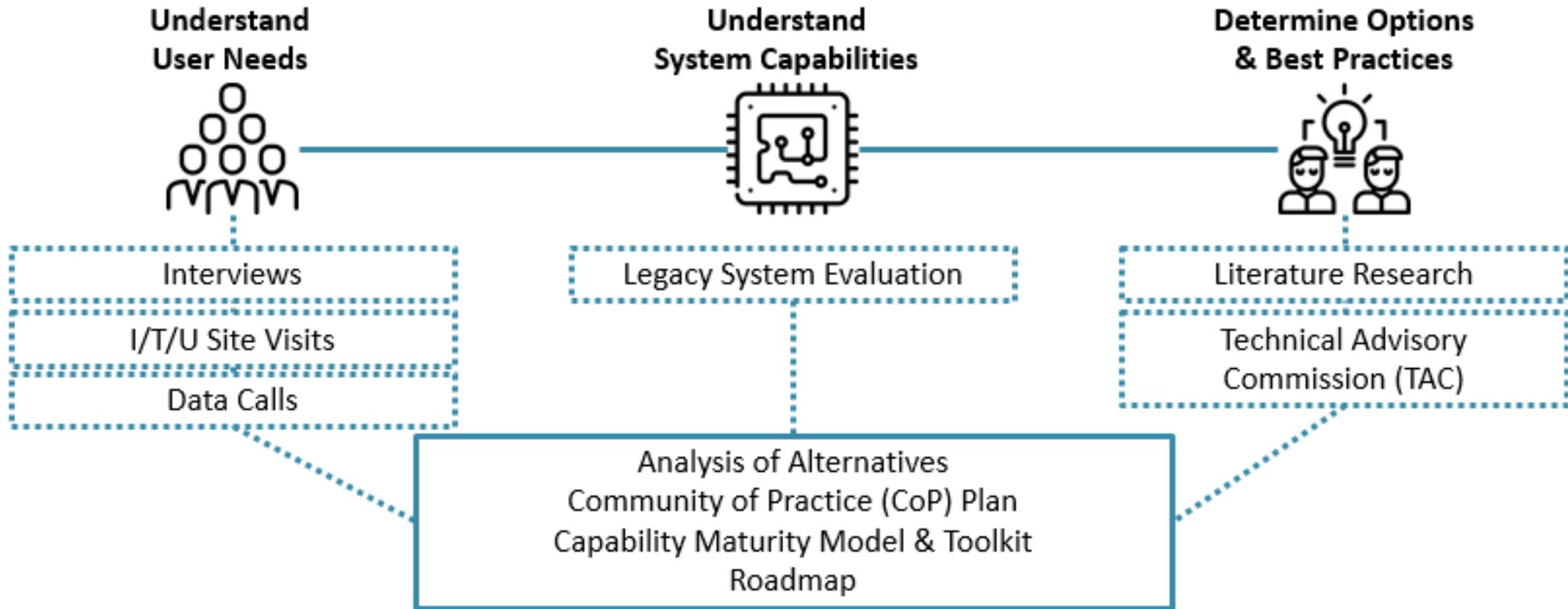
Leverage internal and external expertise to:

- **Evaluate the current state of HIT** across the I/T/U
- **Identify and evaluate alternative EHR solutions** for HIT modernization
- **Produce recommendations** regarding people, process and technology
- **Define a roadmap** to implement these recommendations

*As stated in the Background Statement of the IHS HIT Modernization Research Project RFQ from August 2018

Project Approach

Using a Human Centered Design methodology, the project team developed and implemented the following three-pronged approach to better understand the current state of the IHS HIT systems and the unique needs of the users that it serves.



Breadth of Data Collected

25

Site visits to I/T/U facilities to engage with

450

site personnel

13

Virtual focus sessions with members of national workgroups

5

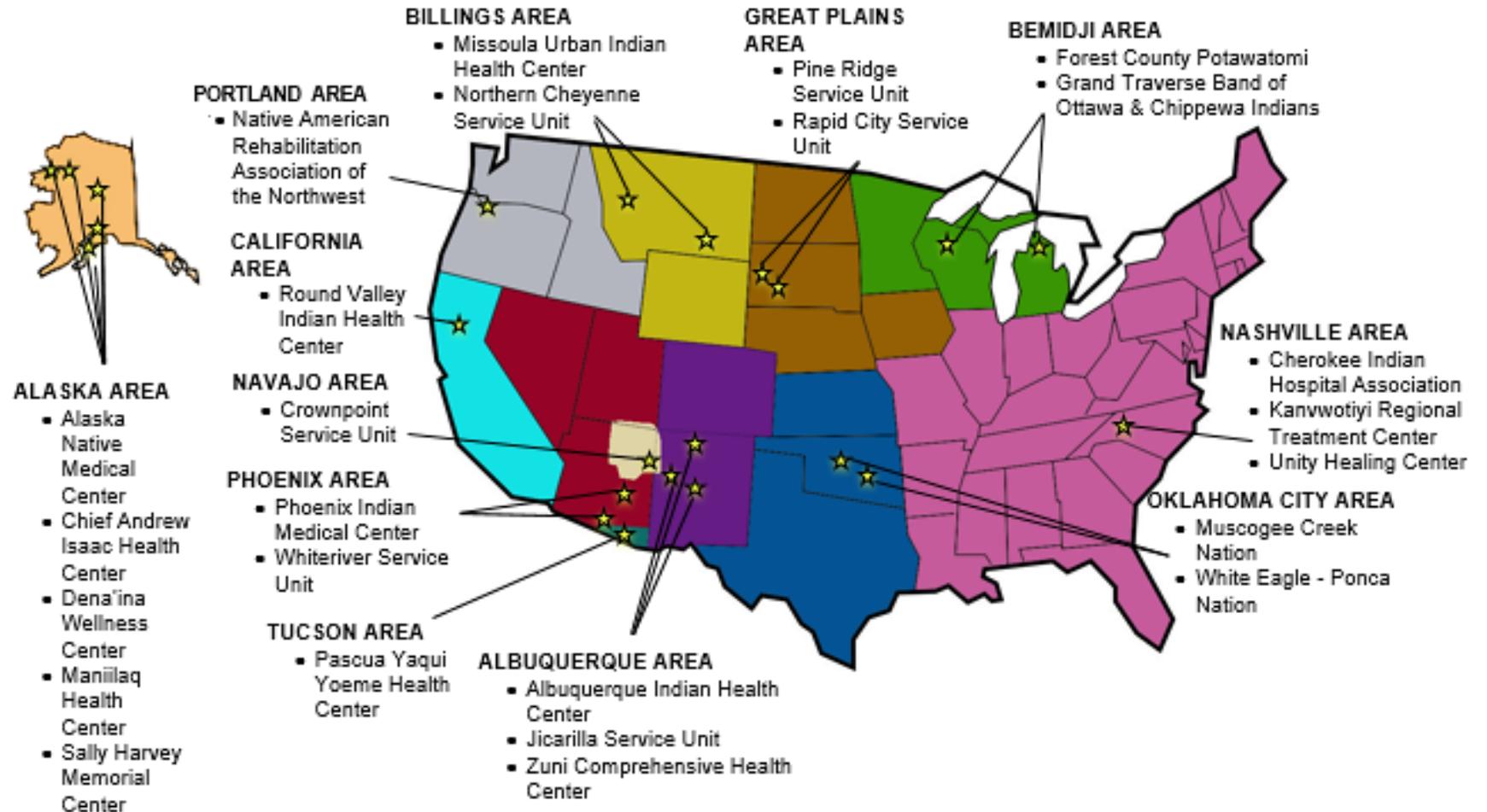
Conferences, national and Tribal

1,877

Responses from

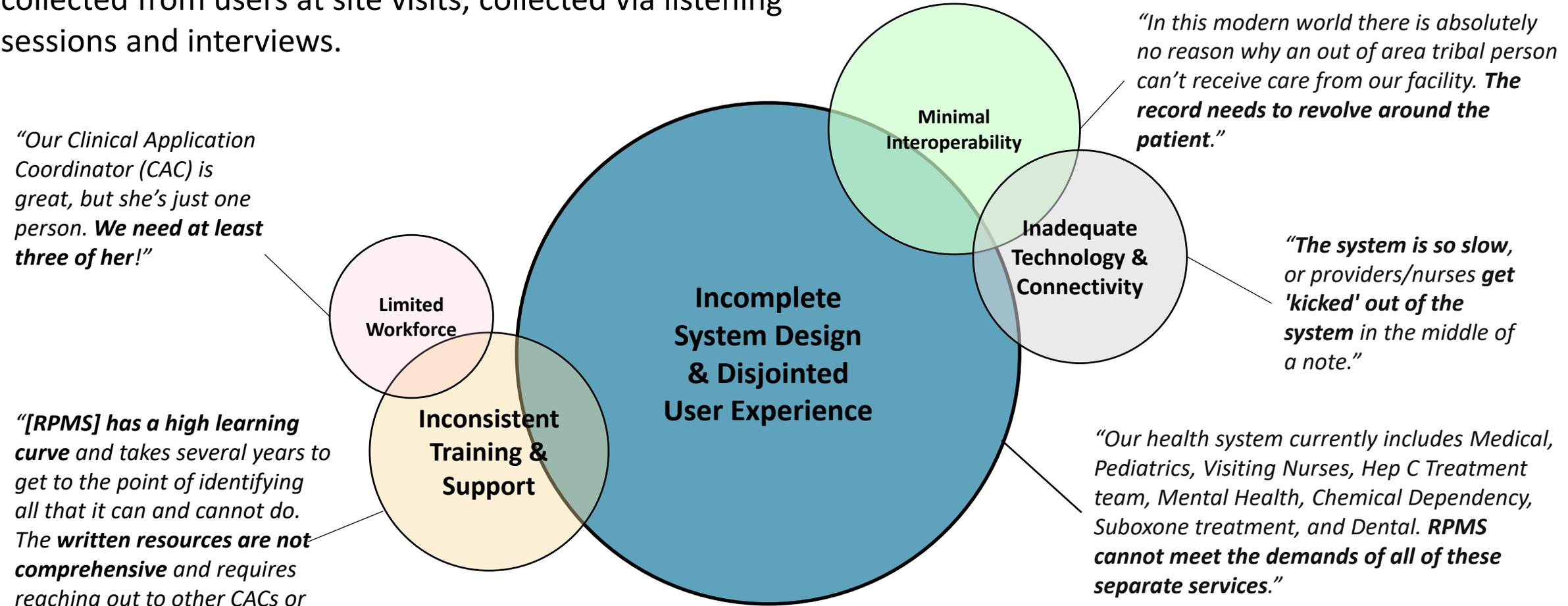
240

I/T/U facilities through a Data Call and emails from site personnel



Current State – User Perspective

Five high-level themes evolved from the insights collected from users at site visits, collected via listening sessions and interviews.



Note: the diagram is scaled to reflect volume of comments for each theme

Current State – User Perspective

A Data Call was conducted and received responses from 1,381* HIT end users. Results showed that:

<p>42%</p> <p>of users are either somewhat or very dissatisfied with how well RPMS helps them do their jobs</p>	<p>60%</p> <p>of users think RPMS needs significant improvements</p>
<p>60%</p> <p>of RPMS sites feel they are far from having the necessary hardware to complete their work</p>	<p>93%</p> <p>of all users agree that now is the time for IHS to deploy a new HIT system</p>



Data Call Takeaways

- Capitalize on the desire for change and readiness of end users
- Address technological infrastructure concerns as part of the modernization effort
- Focus modernization on improving end user experience in 3 areas:
 1. Interoperability
 2. Reporting
 3. Usability and data entry

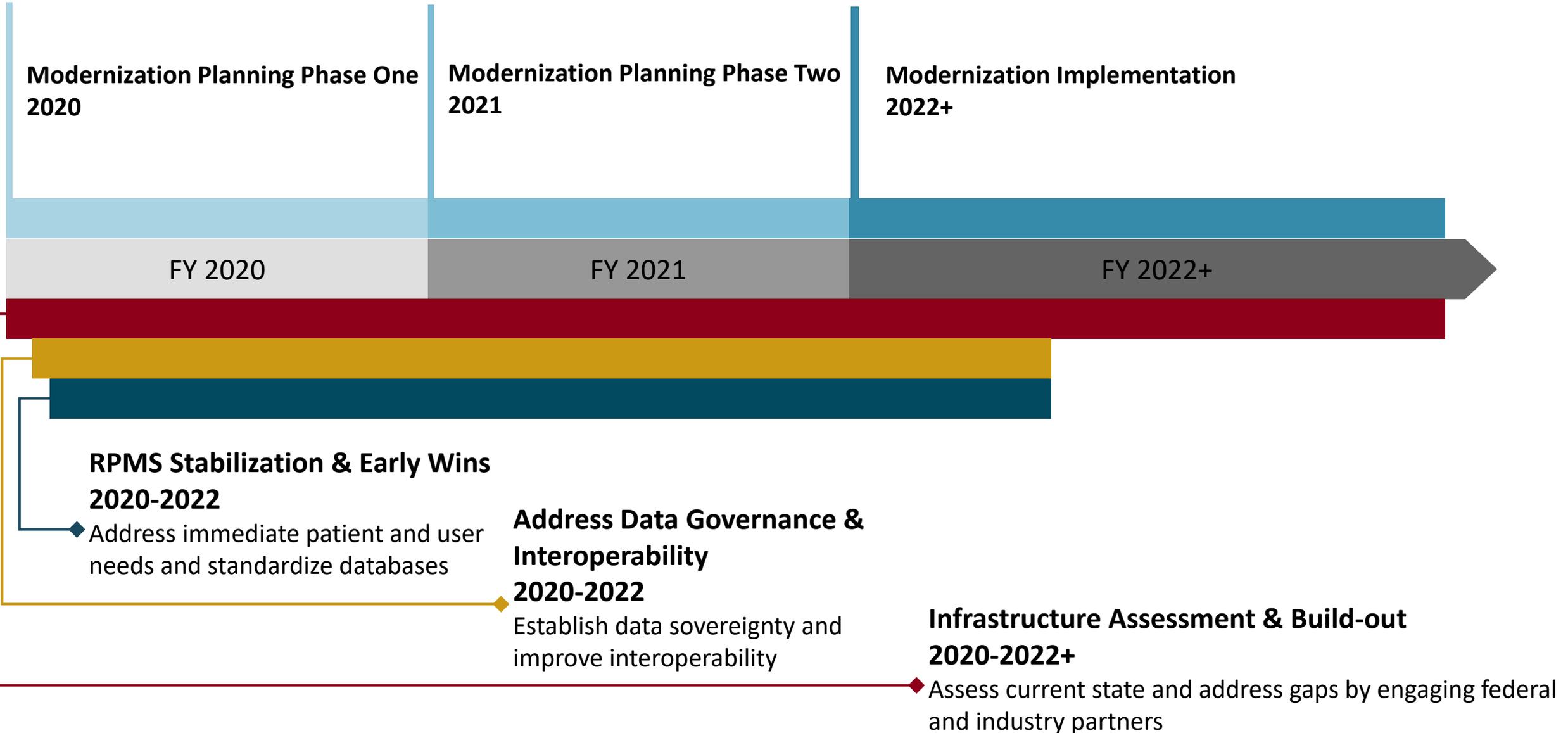
IHS HIT Modernization Options

The Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) identified and assessed four high-level options for IHS HIT modernization.

Stabilizing RPMS (Option 1) is a foundational requirement but falls short of a modernized HIT solution. However, all these options, including Stabilization, require additional funding.

1 Stabilize RPMS	2 Renew RPMS	3 Selective Replacement	4 Full Replacement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain current technical architecture and deployment approach• Enhance applications as needed and as resources allow, including new graphical user interfaces• Improve training and support resources to optimize utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply state-of-the-art methods to “wrap & renew” legacy apps with APIs/service tier• Allow creation of new functions and user interfaces using “modern” technologies and languages• Migrate to consolidated databases and cloud hosting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify preferred “best of breed” COTS solutions for specific domains (e.g. Lab, Billing, etc.)• Selectively integrate these using standards-based service tier technologies• Retain and enhance preferred RPMS apps/functions using “wrap and renew” approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and implement preferred pre-integrated “best of suite” offerings• Determine approach to retention/transfer of legacy data to new system• Some features of RPMS unique to IHS may need to be retained or redeveloped

High-level Operation Plan



Immediate Next Steps

Immediate next steps are presented in the context of the Roadmap domains.

Modernization Planning and Execution

- Restructure **HIT governance** processes within the agency
- Reorganize IHS's Office of Information Technology (OIT) and fill critical vacancies
- Establish and charter the **HIT Modernization Advisory Committee (HITMAC)**
- Execute an acquisition for expert **Program Management Office support**

RPMS Stabilization and Early Wins

- Take steps to **standardize and normalize RPMS databases** across the country
- Complete 2015 Edition certification, resolving usability issues of affected RPMS components to the extent possible

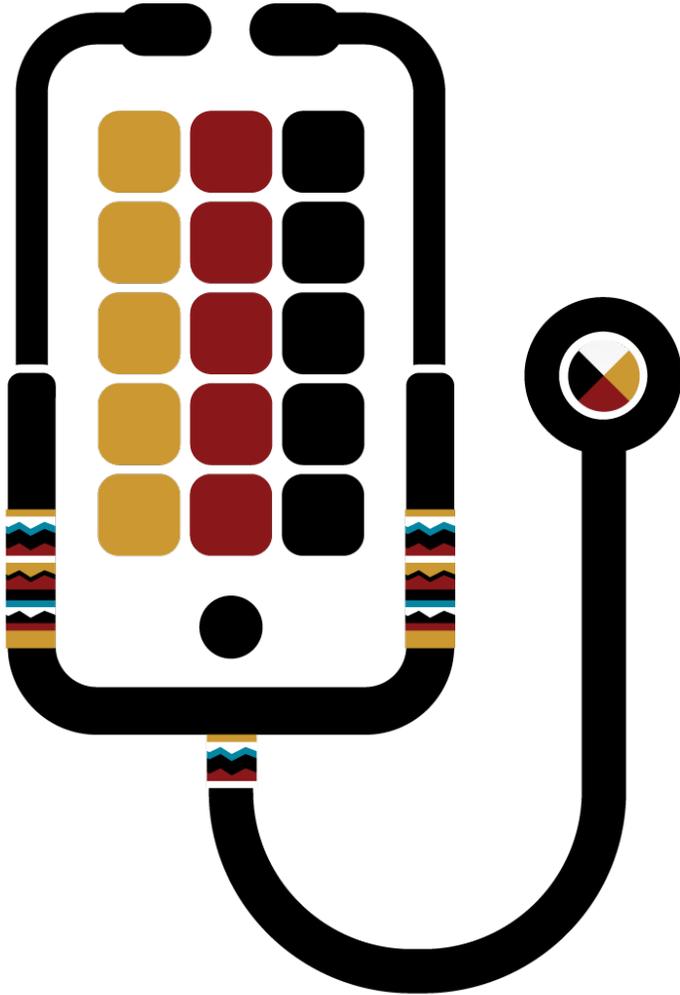
Data Exchange

- Improve **Internal and External Interoperability**, including connections to Health Information Exchanges serving appropriate states and federal agencies

Infrastructure

- Address identified critical **infrastructure gaps**, engaging Federal and industry partners

Contact Information



Mitchell Thornbrugh, MBA

Chief Information Officer | Office of Information Technology

Indian Health Service

e: Mitch.Thornbrugh@ihs.gov | w: 301.443.2019 | m: 240.620.3117



December All Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders Call

**Thursday, December 5, 2019
3:30 pm Eastern Time**

**Conference Call #: 800-857-5577
Participant Passcode: 6703929**

**Webinar Adobe Connect: <https://ihs.cosocloud.com/r4k6jib09mj>
Participant Password: ihs123**

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