

Indian Health Service All Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leaders Call

JUNE 1, 2023



IHS Update



BENJAMIN SMITH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE





VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION



Presentation for: **IHS Tribal & Urban Indian Organization Call**

Presented by: **Dr. Christie Prairie Chicken, Acting Director for VHA Office of Tribal Health**

Date: **June 1, 2023**



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Briefing Purpose and Office Overview

This is an informational briefing to provide VHA Leadership with awareness of the Office of Tribal Health (OTH) and its charter.

Our Mission

Strengthen VHA's commitment to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans by supporting exceptional health care and well-being.

Our Vision

Elevate the AI/AN Veteran's health care experience by providing culturally-informed guidance and serving as a national-level strategic advisor.

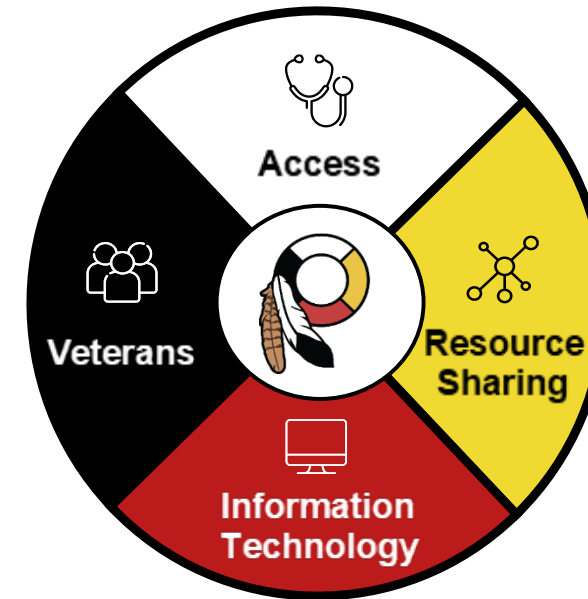
Our Values

Connecting Health Care & Culture through Partnership, Respect, and Understanding.

Our Scope

Enhance government partnerships and serve as a liaison between VAVHA, the White House, Federal, State, and Tribal Governments. Initiate, build, and strengthen collaboration, and resource sharing by engaging Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Programs, Urban Indian Organizations, and other stakeholders which address health disparities, while enhancing the AI/AN Veteran's experience.

VHA Office of Tribal Health's strategic focus areas are displayed in the medicine wheel below.



The above-right graphic contains the four colors of the Medicine Wheel. "The Medicine Wheel, sometimes known as the Sacred Hoop, has been used by generations of various Native American tribes for health and healing. It embodies the Four Directions, as well as Father Sky, Mother Earth, and Spirit Tree—all of which symbolize dimensions of health and the cycles of life." – [National Library of Medicine](#)



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Office of Tribal Health: 3002 Legislation Copay Waiver

VHA Office of Tribal Health encourages American Indian/Alaska Veterans to engage in the following benefits:

- **Copay Exemption for American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans:** Eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans seeking **copayment exemption** will need to submit a copy of the following:
 1. Any one of the following **Official Tribal Documents**, including, but not limited to:
 - 1 Tribal Enrollment or Membership ID Card
 - Tribal Census Documentation
 - Certificate of Indian Blood issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Documentation issued by a Tribe on official letterhead indicating individual affiliation **AND**
 2. **VA Form 10-334**, Tribal Documentation Form.
 3. **Mail copies of Veteran's Official Tribal Documentation and VA Form 10-334 to:**

VHA Tribal Documentation
PO Box 5100
Janesville, WI 53547-5100
- Please do not mail original documents. Only copies should be mailed. If Veterans need to make copies of their documentation or need a printed copy of VA Form 10-334, they can request copies at their local VA medical center or clinic.



Indian Health Service

Budget Update

JILLIAN E. CURTIS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

JUNE 1, 2023



Debt Ceiling Update

The Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2023 was passed by the House last night, May 31. The Senate will now take up the bill for consideration.

- ❑ The bill includes a two-year debt limit suspension, and a two-year budget deal, and does not include the \$130 billion in cuts proposed by the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023.
- ❑ The bill protects direct COVID-19 appropriations for the IHS.

Debt Ceiling Update (*Cont.*)

The bill keeps FY 2024 non-defense discretionary spending roughly flat with FY 2023.

- ❑ This is a government-wide funding level. Funding for individual Agencies may ultimately differ depending on the outcome of final FY 2024 appropriations.
- ❑ The bill increases funding for FY 2025 by 1%.
- ❑ There are no budget caps after FY 2025, only non-enforceable appropriations targets.

FY 2024 Appropriations Update

Director Tso testified in two hearings on the FY 2024 President's Budget.

- ❑ On May 10, the Director testified before the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee along with DOI Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Brian Newland.
- ❑ On May 11, the Director also testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs.

FY 2024 Appropriations Update (*cont.*)

The timeline for FY 2024 appropriations action is not yet clear. Based on media reports:

- ❑ The House may mark up soon after the debt ceiling deal is finalized.
- ❑ Sen. Murray, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee has publicly stated that the Senate will pass all 12 appropriations bills by Sept. 30.

FY 2024 Appropriations Update (*cont.*)

During the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee's American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Days, Chair Simpson remarked:

- “We are going to have to prioritize Indian health care in these budgets.... There are some areas we are going to have to protect. Indian health care is going to be one of them.”



Advance Appropriations Implementation

- **Goal 1:** Distribute FY 2024 advance appropriations for IHS, Tribal, and urban Indian health programs as close to Oct. 1 as possible.
- **Goal 2:** Engage regularly with Tribal Leaders, Urban Indian Organization Leaders, and Congress.
- **Goal 3:** Demonstrate the impact of Advance Appropriations.



Pride Month

Please visit www.ihs.gov/lgbt for more information.

RICK HAVERKATE

IHS NATIONAL HIV/HCV/STI CONSULTANT

JUNE 2023



2023

PRIDE MONTH



Indigenous Pride in Action





June is Pride Month dedicated to celebrating the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (2SLGBTQI), community and their allies.

- ❖ **Who: IHS, HRSA, SAMHSA, AND AHRQ**
- ❖ **What: PRIDE Event**
- ❖ **When: Monday, June 5, between Noon to 1 pm ET.**
- ❖ **Where: 5600 Fishers Lane, Pavilion Rooms 5A and 5B
or join via ZOOM**

Two Spirit/LGBTQI+
Native youth

Project Red Talon National Network





Indian Health Service Behavioral Health Updates

TAMARA JAMES, PHD
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
JUNE 1, 2023



Behavioral Health Updates

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) serves as the primary source of national advocacy, policy development, management, and administration of behavioral health, alcohol and substance abuse, and family violence prevention programs for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people.

- Mental Health Branch
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Branch
- Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence Branch
- Behavioral Health Initiatives Branch



National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health

- Next NTAC meeting is scheduled for June 20-21, 2023.
- NTAC acts as an advisory body to DBH and to the Director of the IHS, with the aim of providing guidance and recommendations on programmatic issues that affect the delivery of BH care for AI/ANs.
- In 2022, IHS and NTAC-BH established the first charter which was published in the Indian Health Manual, Circulars. ([National Tribal Advisory Committee On Behavioral Health - Charter | 2022 \(ihs.gov\)](#))
- [National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health | Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer \(ihs.gov\)](#)
- Requesting support to address current vacancies but with a focus on these Areas:
 - Albuquerque Area
 - Nashville Area
 - Tucson Area



Mental Health Branch

Barbara Roland, Branch Supervisor

- IHS continues to support Tribal communities in their ability to address the mental health disparities experienced among the AI/AN population. In partnership with Tribal community entities, a collaborative community of learning will support IHS efforts to promote excellence and quality through the development of innovative, community-based projects to expand mental health services and treatment in integrated clinical settings.
- **HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration**
 - IHS Behavioral Health Integration Initiative promotes use and development of evidence-based and practice-based models that represent culturally appropriate treatment approaches to integrate behavioral health services with primary care to improve community health.
- **Suicide Prevention**
 - IHS Zero Suicide Initiative. Last year IHS awarded 6 Tribal and 2 Urban facilities to implement the ZSI model within their healthcare system. Projects will focus on utilizing evidence-based treatment in suicide care, safety plans with patients at risk for suicide that present within healthcare facilities.
 - Implement the Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) to provide universal suicide screening in Emergency Departments.
 - In FY 2021, IHS began training staff in recognizing and responding to suicide through the implementation of a culturally customized suicide prevention gatekeeper program, Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR).
- **Trauma Informed Care**
 - IHS has worked to implement the principles of trauma informed care to ensure its system understands the prevalence and impact of trauma, facilitates healing, avoids re-traumatization, and focuses on strength and resilience. In FY 2022, 96 percent of IHS staff completed the “Overview of Trauma Informed Care and Historical Trauma Guidance” in the HHS LMS.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

- Alcohol, substance abuse, and addiction are among the most severe public health and safety problems facing American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals, families, and communities.
- Youth Regional Treatment Centers
 - YRTC are facilities which provide essential treatment and recovery services to AI/AN youth experiencing SUDs. DBH is working collaboratively with our Office of Quality and YRTC Directors to standardize patient safety policies and procedures and in FY 2022 awarded an Aftercare grant to the Cherokee Nation's Jack Brown Center to develop and create a culturally connected aftercare service network to provide effective and responsive aftercare and recovery services to AI/AN youth.
- Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention
 - Promotes use and development of evidence-based and practice-based models that represent culturally-appropriate prevention and treatment approaches to substance abuse and suicide prevention. In FY 2022, IHS awarded 72 new SASP projects.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy

- The overdose prevention strategy features four priority areas: primary prevention; harm reduction; evidence-based treatment; and recovery support.
 - IHS DBH works in partnership with the multi-disciplinary workgroup to form the IHS National Committee on Heroin, Opioids, and Pain Efforts (HOPE). <https://www.ihs.gov/opioids/>
 - In FY 2021, IHS awarded 35 grantees in the Community Opioid Intervention Pilot to promote culturally-informed and family oriented opioid education, prevention and treatment for AI/AN communities.
 - Treatment and Recovery National Clinical Consultation Center Warm line. Center offers support access to SUD care through peer to peer and case consultation. <https://www.ihs.gov/opioids/recovery/providers/>
 - IHS continues to support and release Opioid related training for providers and partnering communities. <https://www.ihs.gov/opioids/trainingopportunities/>

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Tulalip, WA



NATIONAL TRIBAL OPIOID SUMMIT
NPAIHB
2023
LET'S HEAL OUR NATIONS TOGETHER




NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board invites you to partner with us, Tribal Nations, federal and state policy makers, and national and regional Tribal organizations to address the fentanyl crisis in our communities.

National Tribal Opioid Summit
SAVE THE DATE: August 22-24, 2023

Join us for the inaugural National Tribal Opioid Summit - Scan the QR CODE for Sponsorship Opportunities. Let's heal our Nations Together!



Combating Long COVID with Behavioral Health Continuation

- Behavioral Health teams provide a mental health intake and evaluation to identify symptoms such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, insomnia, suicidal thoughts, and fatigue.
- Many patients try to return to pre COVID levels of work and family responsibilities. They are faced with skepticism from others regarding their performance. Behavioral Health Providers can offer support and education regarding Long COVID.
- To combat insomnia, patients are able utilize apps on their phones or tablets to help them sleep.

Calm: <https://www.calm.com/>

BetterSleep, <https://www.bettersleep.com/>



Educating the Population and Providers

- Social media posts, blog posts, and printed materials may be developed for distribution.
- Education for providers may be developed to provide adequate information for treatment.
- The Tele Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (TBHCE) provides COVID education for patients and providers.

<https://www.ihs.gov/teleeducation/webinar-archives/c19webinars/>

These webinars are accessible to UIOs and their providers, and may result in Continuing Education credits.



Additional Resources

- IHS <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/post-covid-science.html>
- Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. 2022. Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19, 200 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20201. <https://www.covid.gov/assets/files/Services-and-Supports-for-Longer-Term-Impacts-of-COVID-19-08012022.pdf>



Interagency Collaborations

IHS depends on these partners to help improve the lives and health of our citizens through these partnerships.

- Veteran's Administration (VA)
 - Recent publication of "Mental Health Outcomes Among American Indian and Alaska Native U.S. Army Soldiers: A Serial Cross-Sectional Analysis," in Military Medicine
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA)
 - Road to Healing
 - Integration of SUD and MOUD services
- HHS Behavioral Health Coordinating Committee
- Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)
- Centers for Disease Control
 - Partnership to release a new study "Suicides Among American Indian/Alaska Native Persons — National Violent Death Reporting System, 2015–2020"
- State Departments of Mental Health and Substance agencies





Questions & Answers

Next Tribal and UIO Leader Call:
July 6, 2023

