

**Bemidji Area Office**  
**Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee**  
**FY2019 1st Quarter Report**  
**Aug – Sep 2019**

<b>Area Tribal Representatives:</b>	<b>Federal Liaison:</b>
Kathy Goodwin	Chris Poole
<b>Goal 1: To ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people</b>	
<p><b>Cass Lake Hospital:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with Leech Lake Human Services and Tribal Health, Cass Lake IHS is participating in a Community Health Assessment (CHA) for the greater Leech Lake Reservation area. The team is working with the service unit's Partnership for Advancing Tribal Health (PATH) partners to develop the assessment and analyze collected data. Estimated completion timeline of the CHA is January 2020.</li> <li>• Construction to further expand and remodel the Cass Lake Service Unit continues. The Cass Lake IHS utilized Public Law 638 Construction Contracts to design and construct the Phase 2.1 Expansion Project in partnership with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) to improve infrastructure that will support existing and future supply and service needs of the service unit. In addition, parking and site improvements will include the installation of a geothermal heating system and PV Solar Panel project to reduce energy consumption at the facility and utilize renewable energy. The design of these projects and all associated reviews are complete with the initiation of the \$8.3M construction project in May 2019. Cass Lake IHS and LLBO continue in collaboration to design the Phase 2.2 expansion, which includes a new building expanding the Dental, Optometry, Audiology, and Radiology Departments. During the reporting period, \$30M in NEF and \$585,000 in Backlog of Existing Maintenance and Repair (BEMAR) funding for the construction of the Phase 2 Building were obligated. Cass Lake IHS is currently working with the LLBO to incorporate this work into the Public Law 638 Construction Contract as well.</li> <li>• Cass Lake IHS actively participates in monthly Leech Lake Caring Partners (LLCP) meetings. LLCP consists of representatives from law enforcement, Leech Lake Human Services, EMS, IHS nursing/providers, Leech Lake Tribal Health, and school district social workers. In addition, Cass Lake staff meet with Zero Suicide Initiative representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health to set goals, identify opportunities for community collaboration, and discuss data collection focused on suicide prevention.</li> <li>• A two-day conference, offered through the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative (DVPI), is scheduled for October at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. Cass Lake IHS DVPI staff brought together local and nationally known experts in the field of domestic violence who will present to a multi-disciplinary audience of professionals that provide care for victims of intimate partner violence.</li> <li>• A multi-disciplinary team comprised of a nurse practitioner, pharmacist, nursing, and clinical director in collaboration with other IHS and tribal health teams (Red Lake and White Earth) and the Minnesota Department of Health is working to address the recent increases in Syphilis and Hepatitis A in Indian Country.</li> </ul> <p><b>Red Lake Hospital:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Red Lake Hospital hosted a grand opening of the Emergency Department expansion on August 5, 2019. The initial two-week comparison to the previous month indicated a 54% increase in ED utilization with a 1% reduction in left without being seen rates.</li> </ul>	

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- Red Lake Community opioid response: deployed naloxone community train-the-trainer program to expand access to naloxone; trained 101 community members on overdose reversal and distributed naloxone doses; provided key clinical support for the tribal safe syringe exchange program
- Red Lake Group Therapy for Co-Occurring Disorders: preliminary planning has begun to collaborate with the RL Chemical Health Program to offer group therapy for patients with co-occurring behavioral health conditions with substance use disorder.

**White Earth Health Center:**

- Two Mobile Mammography Clinics were held at the NayTahWaush and Pine Point Clinics on August 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. The events were the result of a collaboration between WESU, the SAGE program (DHS), White Earth Tribal Home Health, Park Nicolett Health System, and the Shakopee Tribe. Fifty patients received mammograms including seven baseline exams. The event was a huge success.
- The Coordination of Care Committee was established in collaboration with the White Earth Council of Elders and the White Earth Tribal Council. In August 2019, the Tribal Council passed a resolution to establish the committee with participants from Tribal Health, Mental Health, Human Services and the Indian Health Service. Tasked with the development of formal agreements between the White Earth Tribal Council and local health systems, this committee will look for ways to coordinate care for patients who use IHS and local systems. This affects the timeliness and efficiency of those local systems processing PRC purchase orders and coordinating the sharing of medical information.
- Safe Talk training is scheduled for September 25, 2019 for providers and nursing.
- Medication disposal containers expanded to NayTahWaush and Pine Point satellite clinics.
- White Earth Service Unit started the conversion to geothermal heating and cooling as part of the 35,000 sq. ft. expansion. Geothermal will require drilling 200 wells. To date, approximately 30 wells are finished on the northern part of the property.

**Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization**

**Cass Lake Hospital:**

- Cass Lake IHS participated in a pilot program to improve chronic pain management through consultation facilitated by the University of New Mexico's Project ECHO. Providers presented patients on chronic opioid prescriptions with MME>50 to a team of specialists in pain and addiction management who provided consultation. A didactic portion was also part of the pilot program.
- As the result of the success of an existing service, the service unit is working to expand the availability of medication management services through tele-behavioral health.
- Cass Lake IHS supervisors participated in TeamSTEPPS train the trainer program to improve safety and quality of care provided within the health care system.
- A patient surge drill was conducted in collaboration with tribal and community partners. The event took place at the Cass Lake-Bena High School and involved triaging critically injured patients to appropriate levels of care.

**Red Lake Hospital:**

- Created a draft action plan to evaluate organizational readiness and business impact to convert facility to a Critical Access Hospital. Action plan approved by Governing Board.

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- Red Lake received notice of award for the MN State Opioid Response Grant under the innovation purpose area to expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment for pregnant women, justice involved populations, and in post-overdose resuscitation patients.
- Red Lake incorporated Cultural Wisdom Practices into the strategic plan to include a collaborative response with the tribal Comprehensive Health Program. Planned activities for this quarter include a community feast, planting a cedar tree, teaching employees to make tobacco ties to increase awareness of the role of traditional medicines, and increasing availability of ceremonial tobacco for employee and patient use.
- Red Lake continues to provide high quality of care across the health system within all departments and quality is celebrated with front line staff.

**White Earth Health Center:**

- White Earth has committed to a base + 4 year contract to review and audit provider documentation, coding practices, billing improvements to increase quality care and revenue.
- The White Earth Clinical Director and Quality Improvement Performance Manager are participating in Wave 3 of the Health Improvement Professional (HIP) workshop. This intensive program develops current and future leaders in improvement science and pragmatic applications of systems theory, personality intelligence, analytic studies of variation, building knowledge for learning, data analysis and strategic intelligence. The program fits nicely into the quality improvement structure already in use at the WESU for the past several years and will take our current program to the next level.
- The White Earth Service Unit upgraded equipment and increased access to ultrasound, MRI, and CT services through a contract with a new vendor Shared Medical Services. The ultrasound equipment is now 3D and with more scheduling options for patients.

**Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations**

**Cass Lake Hospital:**

- The service unit is preparing for Joint Commission accreditation with a now full complement of quality staff that includes a Quality Manager, Accreditation Specialist, Infection Control Specialist, and Safety Officer.
- The service unit's Safety Officer recently implemented a process to evaluate Webcidents using the Situation, Background, Assessment, and Recommendation (SBAR) process. This included the creation of a multidisciplinary team to assess Webcidents, assign Just Culture standards, and develop a plan to mitigate recurrence risk.
- Cass Lake IHS is 100% compliant in mandatory training for "Protecting Indian Children from Sexual Abuse by Health Care Providers."

**Red Lake Hospital:**

- Red Lake Opioid Stewardship plan included coordination of a pilot program to enhance interdisciplinary chronic pain management meetings and facilitate prescriber access to tele-mentoring with specialists in pain management and addiction for complex patients on chronic opioid prescriptions with MME>90. Additional strategies implemented this quarter include expanded

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professional peer evaluation strategies and data analytics to inform the opioid stewardship plan for FY20.

- Red Lake cascaded the HQ strategic plan to create a local SU strategic plan that includes strategies to improve the quality of care, increase access, and improve collaboration with stakeholders.

**White Earth Health Center:**

- Hired key personnel including Supervisory IT Manager, Infection Prevention and Control Officer, Director of Nursing, and Safety Officer to assure security and safety measures are maintained and improved for the White Earth Service Unit.
- The White Earth Clinical Applications Coordinator completed Beta Test Endorsement for BQI ICare V2.8. This application is instrumental to providing preventative care and reaching patients in need by statistically compiling patient information.
- White Earth Service Unit Staff participated with Bemidji Area staff and MN DHS to establish effective communication avenues regarding provider credentialing and billing requirements on September 12, 2019.
- White Earth Service Unit is 100% compliant in mandatory training for “Protecting Indian Children from Sexual Abuse by Health Care Providers”. Our tracking mechanism for contractors and volunteers was adapted throughout entire area.