

**Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY 2022 1st Quarter Report
July - September 2021**

<p>Area Tribal Representatives: Donnie Garcia, Chairman, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board</p>	<p>Federal Liaison: Randall Morgan, Director, Office of Tribal Self Determination</p>
<p>Goal 1: To ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Santa Fe Service Unit (SFSU) was surveyed by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) on September 30, 2021 through October 1, 2021 and received positive feedback from the surveyors concerning their assessment of clinical care provided by the SFSU. The SFSU is currently accredited by The Joint Commission. The success of survey is attributable to the commitment of all federal personnel that work at the SFSU and the assistance provided by the Inter-Disciplinary Team members that comprise the Albuquerque Area Office’s Continuous Accreditation Readiness Program (CARP). The composition of the CARP Team includes clinical, administrative and technical subject matter experts from the Division of Clinical Quality, the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering’s Industrial Hygiene Program, Infection Control and Healthcare Facilities Management. In August, the CARP Team helped to prepare the Jicarilla Service Unit by conducting a mock survey and they did the same for the Ute Mountain Health Center in September. The continued accreditation of each federal healthcare facility demonstrates commitment of continued delivery of safe and quality patient care. • Three separate Meet-and-Greet virtual meetings were held with the tribal leaders and tribal health program personnel from the Canoncito Band of Navajos, Pueblo of Acoma and Pueblo Laguna to introduce Ms. Delaine Alley, the recently-appointed Chief Executive Officer at the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna (ACL) Service Unit. Ms. Alley shared her vision and goals with each tribal entity and conveyed her plans to lead the healthcare team at ACL Service Unit, and responded to questions and recommendations expressed by the tribal leaders. • In September, Mr. Dante Halleck was appointed to serve as the Chief Operations Officer at Taos/Picuris Service Unit (TPSU) and was recently delegated to serve as the TPSU Acting Chief Executive Officer while the search to identify a viable candidate to hold the CEO position continues. Mr. Halleck will provide overall managerial, administrative and clinical outpatient medical service oversight. Mr. Halleck brings to the Albuquerque Area IHS a wealth of managerial experience and healthcare operations knowledge. 	
<p>Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tracy Sanchez, Executive Officer, continues to work with Area Office personnel in the Division of Personnel Management; Division of Accounting Services; Division of Contracts and Grants Management and Information Systems Management (e.g. IT) to enhance the delivery of administrative support to federal service units. • In the past quarter, several new personnel were hired in the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering to help address the public health workload in tribal communities. • The Division of Accounting Services successfully completed an Area-wide financial close out for Fiscal Year 2021. 	

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Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

- Throughout the quarter, bi-weekly virtual meetings with federal and tribal program staff were scheduled by the Incident Command Structure to convey critical information surrounding the Area's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These important meetings inform front line healthcare personnel and tribal leaders on emerging healthcare policy and best practices, COVID vaccine guidance and data.
- In September, the Albuquerque Area held a quarterly Area Tribal Consultation session with tribal leaders, Urban Indian Program executives, Indian Self Determination tribal contractors and Indian Self Governance tribal compactors. Agenda topics included Area COVID surveillance, IHS operational updates and ISDEAA training. Ms. Elizabeth Fowler, Acting IHS Director participated in the consultation session and gave an update to the participants.