

**Billings Area IHS  
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee  
FY2022 1st Quarter Report  
July - September 2021**

<p><b>Area Tribal Representatives:</b> Mr. Dana Buckles, Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board Mr. Lynn Cliff Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community</p>	<p><b>Federal Liaison:</b> Ms. Michelle Begay, Office of Tribal Programs, Billings Area Office</p>
<p><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>	
<p>Billings Area Title I fiscal year (FY) 2022 negotiations were completed for four (4) Tribes (Northern Arapaho, Crow, Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne). Negotiations for new proposals are pending into the first quarter of FY 2022 for the Fort Peck, Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne and Little Shell Tribes.</p> <p>Wind River Service Unit has been developing a community outreach project to provide clinical services within the community, “outside of the four-walls”. A half-day outreach clinic was conducted to pilot the services for documentation purposes and provide some data for review while building the program. The vision is to extend services to include Behavioral Health Providers, Social Workers, Nutritionist, Diabetes Education and other key Patient Centered Medical Home services to these specific patient populations including the homebound.</p> <p>Crow Service Unit Rehabilitation Department has been meeting with National Home Seating to develop an agreement to allow the Service Unit to conduct wheelchair clinics at Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital. The intention is to increase patient access to care and to provide a process in which patients can be evaluated and provided new chairs as well as receive the repairs needed locally.</p> <p>Crow Service Unit Injury Prevention Program held a Child Passenger Safety Seat Checkpoint and Clinic in September 2021. The event was held in the local communities of Hardin, Lodge Grass and Pryor, Montana. This event provided education to parents and caregivers on the importance of child safety seat installation.</p>	
<p><b>Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization</b></p>	
<p>Billings Area Office of Tribal Programs continues to provide information and technical assistance to Tribes and Urban Programs on latest information regarding COVID-19 response including funding distribution, testing, vaccination, and other available resources.</p> <p>Northern Cheyenne Service Unit Workforce Planning Committee created a Nurse Trainer position to enhance nursing and provider competencies by providing in house training opportunities.</p> <p>Northern Cheyenne Service Unit initiated a Quality Improvement project for mammograms. This project will streamline the process from identifying patients that are due for mammograms to following up once the procedure is complete. Anticipated outcomes are a reduced time to when patients are notified of results and eliminating unnecessary steps that may contribute to errors within our system.</p>	

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Billings Area in collaboration with the Bemidji Area held a virtual Conflict of Interest Workshop on July 26, 2021, which included participation from Billings Area Office and Service Unit staff as part of the Billings Area Governance Revitalization initiative. The workshop aimed at utilizing divergent and convergent thinking to identify conflicts of interest and practice innovative thinking. In addition, Dr. Olivia Beckman, Chief Medical Officer, Bemidji Area, joined the Billings Area Executive Leadership Team as they traveled to and participated in on-site Governing Board Meetings.

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

Billings Area Finance Department established weekly calls in FY 2021 with the Federal Service Unit Financial Specialists. This communication provided key financial updates and the weekly communication helped decrease the invoices on hold for the Billings Area by 80% for FY 2021. The frequent communication and ability to review Service Unit reports weekly has improved the ability for the Service Units to operate under balanced budgets and also to assist the Finance Department to close FY 2021.

Billings Area Office staff continue to meet with the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana to continue collaboration and planning with the Tribe for the Little Shell Service Unit anticipated to begin operations in the Fall of 2021. Billings Area Executive Leadership conducted a site visit in July 2021.

Billings Area Office of Tribal Programs has conducted the following activities during this quarter:

- On July 29<sup>th</sup> in coordination with Alaska Area IHS presented information on Section 105(L) Leases at the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council meeting.
- FY 2021 105(L) leases renewal were completed for the Northern Arapaho Tribe and Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation.
- On August 24<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup> the Billings Area participated in the initial discussions and planning sessions for the IHS Tribal Consultation Policy Advisory Workgroup.
- September 2021, four (4) Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHP) contracts were awarded using the new UIHP contract template. The UIHP receiving new contracts were the Missoula, Great Falls, Butte and Helena.

Billings Area Chief Medical Officer presented at the Billings Community Coalition Virtual Meeting in September 2021. The presentation provided an overview of the IHS Strategic Plan, Mission and Vision; Organizational Structure; Key Leadership; Regional Offices; Health Care System; and Billings Area Tribes and Healthcare facilities.

Wind River Service Unit - Staff from the office of U.S. Senator Cynthia Lummis visited the Wind River Service Unit on September 2, 2021. Ms. Kaite Krell, Health Care Legislative Aide and Mr. Scotty Ratliff, Wyoming Tribal Liaison for Senator Lummis met with Mr. Bryce Redgrave, Area Director; Mr. Darren Crowe, Acting CEO; Service Unit Executive Leadership and Mr. Clinton Glick, Eastern Shoshone Tribal Representative, to discuss concerns and successes in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Crowe provided a presentation on the IHS which included a brief historical overview of IHS and current issues impacting the IHS Ft. Washakie Health Center.