

**White Earth Service Unit  
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee  
FY2020 2nd Quarter Report  
October – December 2019**

<b>Area Tribal Representatives:</b>	<b>Federal Liaison:</b> Laura DeGroat – White Earth Deputy CEO Alan Fogarty – Cass Lake CEO
<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>WHITE EARTH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sought tribal approval to hold an offsite cultural awareness and strategic planning as a means to kick off “reigniting the spirit” initiative on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This initiative will align well with relationship-based care.</li> <li>• White Earth Optometrist consulted with Cass Lake Biomedical Services on Optometry Clinic Design and new equipment. In addition, consulted with the Clinical Director on Optometrist candidates to fill much needed vacancy.</li> </ul> <p><b>CASS LAKE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cass Lake recruited and hired two Clinical Nurses, one Practical Nurse, one Nurse Case Manager, a Medical Supply Technician, a Clinical Pharmacist, and a Medical Records Technician for this quarter.</li> <li>• An announcement to hire an Assistant Director of Nursing, Biomedical Equipment Specialist, a Financial Management Specialist, and a General Supply Specialist position have been posted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization</b>	
<p><b>WHITE EARTH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outside entity performs coding audits for providers and the coders to assure quality documentation and best practices are implemented. Recommendations to improve documentation, data entry, and template developments through E.H.R. and E.D.R. are provided to specific providers and various departments as necessary. This is intended to improve quality care and revenue while reducing risk to patients and the agency.</li> </ul> <p><b>CASS LAKE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cass Lake IHS is in partnership with the LLBO on the future of the Healthcare Facility, which serves them. 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. This project also includes the installation of a geothermal heating system and PV Solar Panel project to reduce energy consumption at the facility and utilize renewable energy. The construction of this \$8.3M expansion began in May 2019 and is in progress with an estimated completion in 2020. 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. Funding for this future construction includes \$30M in NEF and \$585,000 in Backlog of Existing Maintenance and Repair (BEMAR) funding for the construction, which is obligated in the Public Law 638 Construction Contract with LLBO.</li> </ul>	

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- Cass Lake IHS actively participates in monthly Leech Lake Caring Partners (LLCP) meetings, which support the implementation of the Zero Suicide initiative. LLCP consists of representatives from law enforcement, Leech Lake Human Services, EMS, IHS nursing/providers, Leech Lake Tribal Health, and school district social workers.
- Cass Lake IHS Business Office met with the Department of Health and Human Services in St. Paul. Introduction with the new Tribal Liaison Mrs. Monchamp to discuss communication and collaborating efforts of improvements for both I.H.S. and the State.

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

**WHITE EARTH:**

- The White Earth Service Unit made significant progress on a large expansion and modernization project to provide improved access to care for the population it serves. In 2019, the roof on the existing White Earth Health Center was replaced and 200 geothermal wells were drilled totaling nearly \$2.5M in construction. The expansion portion of the project, which will add approximately 35,000 square feet onto the 50,000+ square foot building, will break ground in Spring 2020. When complete, the project is projected to achieve 34% energy reduction and LEED Gold certification.
- Pharmacy underwent program reviews in December with no major findings and recommendations implemented or considered.

**CASS LAKE:**

- Cass Lake IHS completed a three-year CMS re-certification survey in October 2019. The survey yielded the best results in the history of Cass Lake IHS operations.
- Cass Lake IHS has begun preparations for TJC accreditation in March 2020. The Chapter Champions workgroup has been updating policies and procedures to ensure compliance with requirements.
- The Cass Lake Hospital is participating in a collaborative Community Health Assessment (CHA) for the greater Leech Lake Community with Leech Lake Human Services and Tribal Health. The CHA is estimated to be complete in January 2020.
- For PCMH, Cass Lake has begun preparations for becoming TJC accredited by March 2020. Cass Lake has been using the five pillars that include
  - 1) Patient Centered Care
  - 2) Comprehensive Care,
  - 3) Coordinated Care
  - 4) Superb Access to Care
  - 5) Systems Based Approach to Quality and Safety
- Staff meeting day set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month for hospital wide required trainings has been established

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**Resources**

**CASS LAKE:**

- For the month ending December 2019, the year to date collections are slightly below the amount collected at the same period last fiscal year.
- The number of patient visits have increased over the quarter compared to previous years. The Cass Lake Hospital continues recruitment efforts to increase the number of patient visits and increase revenue for the facility.