

**Billings Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2020 2nd Quarter Report
October – December 2019**

<p>Area Tribal Representatives: Mr. Dana Buckles, Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board Mr. Lynn Cliff Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community</p>	<p>Federal Liaison: Michelle Begay, Director, Office of Tribal Programs, Billings Area</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>	
<p>Blackfeet Service Unit's Community Health Nursing (CHN) Program provided flu shots throughout the months of October, November, and December 2019. Working in collaboration with the community to provide Flu Shot Clinics at various locations throughout the community resulted in over 20 Flu Shot Clinics with 932 shots provided and an additional 1,500 shots provided at the Blackfeet Service Unit.</p> <p>Fort Belknap Service Unit continues to be actively engaged in the Fort Belknap Indian Community Suicide Crisis Response Team working in collaboration with local and regional resources and Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters and other Federal partners. Fort Belknap Service Unit requested a Deployment of Commission Corp Officers and on November 18, 2019, the first RedDog Deployment Team arrived on site at the Fort Belknap Service Unit to assist the Service Unit in providing behavioral health services, including local outreach to schools and community employers in coordination with Fort Belknap Tribal Health Programs.</p> <p>Fort Peck Service Unit's Medication Assisted Treatment Program has 13 patients enrolled. The program has been open since July 2019.</p> <p>Billings Area Office Environmental Health & Engineering Department is in the process of completing facility masterplans for all Billings Area Service Units to address space and staff needs and planning documents to address housing needs.</p> <p>Billings Area Office Chief Medical Officer provided a guest lecturer at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana to students on becoming a physician and discussing IHS career paths with a focus on recruiting future IHS employees.</p> <p>Billings Area Office Chief Medical Officer was appointed to the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force. The Montana Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 312 the Looping in Native Communities Network Grant Program creating the Task Force.</p> <p>Billings Area Office Health Promotion Disease Prevention Coordinator provided trainings to IHS and Tribal staff in October and November 2019, the trainings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-cigs & Vaping presented at the Community Health Representative's quarterly meeting in October 2019 and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Tobacco Prevention Program's Lunch and Learn in December 2019. • Mental Health First Aid Training presented to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Promotion staff in November 2019. • Physical Activity Kit (PAK) curriculum training (train-the trainer) held in December 2019. • Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Training (including instructor's training) held in December 2019. 	

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Billings Area Office Recruitment Officer attended recruitment events to recruit health care professionals to the Billings Area, recruitment events included:

- American Osteopathic Association and Osteopathic Medical Education Annual Meeting
- 3RNet Recruitment educational webinars to improve recruitment strategies and process.
- Presented the Billings Area and IHS in general at a National Health Service Corp Virtual Job Fair.

Billings Area Office Recruitment Officer finalized the agreement with Lehigh Valley Health Network Residency Program for the Billings Area. The partnership will provide an opportunity to recruit residents prior to graduation. The first residents are schedule for May 2020 and will be two (2) Internal Medicine residents.

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

Fort Peck Service Unit Dental Program was recognized as one of the IHS Most Improved Dental Programs for their Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) dental indicators in 2019. Recognized for their outstanding achievement in improving Dental GPRA indicators for access to care, dental sealants in 2-15 year olds, and topical fluoride in 1-15 year olds.

Wind River Service Unit's Benefits Coordinator received training to become a Tribal Medicaid Officer for Indian Service Units. The Benefits Coordinator will have the same authority as the State of Wyoming Medicaid Processors, to approve or deny applications through the Wyoming Eligibility System. This will improve the application process and provide assistance to patients on-site at the Service Unit.

Crow Service Unit developed a new Culture of Safety Program. On October 1, 2019 the Service Unit conducted their first Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) Culture of Safety Survey. The goal for participation was 50% of staff participation; the results of 54% staff responses exceeded the target percentage to develop the 2019 Baseline Culture of Safety Survey. The survey will be conducted annually with a participation goal of 90%.

Crow Service Unit held Trauma Informed Care Training in November 2019. The Service Unit Administration Staff and Quality Team completed three training sessions with 95% staff participation. Trainers introduced Historical Trauma and concepts of Trauma Informed Care as it relates to creating a safe healthcare environment.

Crow Service Unit held Just Culture Overview Training in December 2019 for supervisors and selected Culture of Safety Champions. Just Culture Champions completed their certification training, and the Service Unit has ten (10) certified Just Culture staff including key Executive Leadership leading the Service Unit.

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Northern Cheyenne Service Unit partnered with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Program in planning *The Courage To Change The Things I Can Health Conference*. The conference included working with the youth to develop stress, coping, and resiliency skills. The conference also focused on the community and discussion on historical and generational trauma and resiliency. The conference ended with a Leadership Summit to engage the community and Tribal Leaders to discuss strategies to address the needs of the community moving forward.

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit's Physical Therapist (PT) was recertified as an Orthopedic Certified Specialist (OCS), only 5% of PT's hold OCS certification. The OCS certification process recognizes Physical Therapists with advanced clinical knowledge, experience, and skills in a special area of practice.

Fort Belknap Service Unit's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department started another Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class in December 2019, this class will provide locally trained EMT's to serve the Fort Belknap Indian Communities. The Fort Belknap EMS Department also purchased three (3) new ambulances to provide safe high quality emergency response services to the community across the rural reservation in all weather conditions.

Billings Area Office Chief Medical Officer was appointed to the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Area Certification Board for the Billings Area.

Billings Area Office Pharmacy Consultant conducted pharmacy program reviews and controlled substance audits in November and December 2019 for all the Billings Area Services Units.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Billings Area Office held the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget Formulation Meeting on November 13-14, 2019 with over 60 participants from the Montana and Wyoming Tribes.

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit's Physical Therapy Program has taken an active role in the Service Unit Employee Wellness Program. The Physical Therapy Department designated space, purchased equipment, and scheduled daily circuit training for employees during the lunch hour.

Fort Belknap Service Unit implemented polycom access to the Eagle Child Health Clinic providing direct tele-video access between the Eagle Child Health Clinic and the Fort Belknap Service Unit Emergency Department for use with medical emergencies and other medical consults.

Billings Area Office Environmental Health & Engineering Department is participating in a pilot program to address the lack of affordable and available housing. The pilot program is in response to the newly authorized language in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 allowing IHS to provide civilian medical personnel housing allowances.