

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

Area Tribal Representatives: Lester Thompson, Chairman, Crow Creek	Federal Liaison: Daniel Davis, Deputy Area Director
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Goal 1: To ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people

- On December 16, 2019 the Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Health Center received their recertification from the Joint Commission.
- On December 6, 2019 the Rosebud Hospital achieved full certification with the Joint Commission.
- In December 2019, the Pine Ridge Hospital had no findings in 26 areas of Conditions of Participation with CMS during a full survey. The Hospital will now work towards achieving Joint Commission certification.
- The Fort Thompson Behavioral Health department continued to provide culturally connected programs focusing on topics that are the greatest social challenges. In partnership with Crow Creek Tribal School, staff presented on suicidality in the tribal school.
- At the Fort Thompson Health Center, Mending Broken Hearts, a culturally based program addressing unresolved grief, historical and intergenerational trauma, and teaching skills to help provide opportunities for healing and wellness, was facilitated by Behavioral Health staff.
- Fort Thompson Health Center Substance Abuse staff did a presentation at Chamberlain Middle School for students involved in the YES (young, empowered, strong) club. The presentation focused on using coping skills to deal with peer pressure, drugs, vaping, and alcohol.
- The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska successfully submitted a Phase I application for a Joint Venture Project. The Tribe is now working on a Phase II application. If approved, their proposed project would expand services and provide a new up to date building.
- The Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota successfully submitted a Phase I application for a Joint Venture Project. The Tribe is now working on a Phase II application. The project will replace and expand their Dental and Optometry services.
- A groundbreaking occurred for an expansion to the Pine Ridge Emergency Room. The project will add approximately 5,000 square feet to the department offering additional space for more exam, treatment and trauma rooms.
- An apartment complex project was funded for the Quentin N Burdick Memorial Health Care Center in Belcourt, North Dakota. The project is intended to provide housing for needed providers.
- The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska submitted their first draft of their Program of Requirements (POR) and Project Justification Document (PJD) for their Joint Venture Project. The project will expand services and relocate their operations to a new location in a new building.

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

- The Great Plains Area has supported and sponsored individuals to lead our Accelerated Model for Improvement (AMI) projects to look at innovative ways to improve the quality of care and processes.
- The Fort Thompson Health Center Community Health Representatives (CHR) staff each completed a two-week rotation in the outpatient department on screening and rooming patients. This mentorship prepares our CHR staff to provide this level of service in the community and enhance care integration.
- The Fort Thompson Health Center, working in partnership with the State of South Dakota, is working to incorporate SD Health Link Event Notification System to enhance services for health home and the managed care department.
- On November 21, 2019, the Fort Thompson Health Center had several departments, working in cooperation with Crow Creek High School, hosted a wellness screening and flu clinic. Staff screened 248 children in elementary/middle school.
- An HVAC improvement project at the Rosebud Hospital began in the fall of 2019. The project will replace older technology to improve healthcare. The new system will bring the facility into compliance with current standards. The existing system is a pneumatic system with digital upgrades scattered through the facility. The new system will be all digital when complete providing optimal monitoring and control.
- A Nurse Call replacement project is nearly complete for the Pine Ridge Hospital. The old system was analog and difficult to maintain. The new system will be digital and addressable when complete. This will help with patient safety.
- An X-Ray replacement project for the Lower Brule Health Center is moving forward with design and construction services. The existing system is approximately 20 years old. The new technology will ensure the highest quality images for patients.
- A generator controls project was funded for the Pine Ridge Hospital. The existing emergency generator controls system was installed in 1991. The system is obsolete and replacement parts are very difficult to find. The Hospital is required to have emergency generators to ensure patient safety. The new system will allow efficient preventive maintenance.
- The Great Plains Area and the Sac N Fox Tribe worked together to fund an HVAC improvement project at the Tribe's Health Center. The project will implement improvements throughout the building ensure patient comfort and safety.
- The Rosebud Hospital Dietary Department replaced aged and damaged cabinetry and countertops. The new furnishing utilize stainless steel technology to ensure durability and reduces the chance of contamination.
- A project to renovate the Central Sterile Supply department at the Pine Ridge Hospital was approved. The project will enhance the infection control program at the Hospital.

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Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

- The Great Plains Area has been coordinating with a number of medical universities to recruit and retain qualified medical staff.
- The Great Plains Area is developing a data team to ensure that information is available in a readable form to make informed decisions. This data will help evaluate the effectiveness of the changes and will help the area determine the proper resource allocation for situations.
- In the month of November, staff at the Fort Thompson Health Center participated in several trainings to optimize knowledge, skills, and abilities. We had staff members attend information technology summit, RPMS expansion to increase patient services, participate in e-script services, nursing staff in service to stay abreast of patient care, and provider attending a CME course.