

**Oklahoma City Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 2nd Quarter Report
October – December 2021**

Area Tribal Representatives: Reggie Wassana, Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	Federal Liaison: Jennifer LaMere, Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service
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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

Claremore Service Unit

- Surgical nurse completed the Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR) certification.
- Area staff and pharmacy residents, participated in the OSHP Pharmacy Residency Showcase to highlight and recruit for the pharmacy residency program.
- Pediatric Nursing Supervisor working with Claremore Schools to initiate a collaborative vaccination effort.
- On site vaccine clinic offering booster doses of covid-19 vaccine and seasonal flu shots.
- Dr. Little agreed to be the onsite HIV physician for Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB). They are sharing information related to free testing for HIV; serving as the first IHS facility with an assigned provider.
- Claremore Indian Hospital (CIH) collaborated with the SPTHB to access an online patient scheduling portal. This portal provided 24-hour access for patients to schedule a COVID vaccine.

Clinton Service Unit (CSU)

- CSU continues to focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the nursing workforce and is engaged in the contracting process to quickly fill nursing positions.
- The Core Zero Suicide team initiated a staff survey to better understand the needs of the CSU workforce. The intent is to gain an understanding of the organizations’ ability to address issues related to suicide and to improve staff training and patient services.
- The Mammography Mobile Unit was brought to fruition in partnership between CSU and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes (C/A Tribes).
- The collaborative efforts of the C/A Tribes and CSU for an expanded El Reno Indian Health Clinic is near completion. Beneficial occupancy is planned for early 2022 with a phased opening of health services (radiology, physical therapy, audiology, optometry, pharmacy, dental, medical and ancillary services). Efforts have began to fill staff positions for clinical and non-clinical areas.
- The CSU Public Health Nursing department joined the C/A Tribes, state, city, public schools, and the Claremore Service Unit to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the community. Scheduled events with the Tribes’ programs resulted in community-wide activities to vaccinate individuals.
- A patient identification card was developed for patients to present at non-IHS facilities to identify as an eligible patient of the PRC program to streamline processing of claims.
- The award for the MRI site pad construction was finalized. Construction is anticipated at the first of the year with mobile MRI services to begin early 2022.

Haskell Service Unit

- Provide support for on-going COVID testing for Haskell Indian Nation University (HINU) athletic programs.

**Oklahoma City Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 2nd Quarter Report
October – December 2021**

- Collaborative efforts also include hosting multiple on-campus vaccine events for students and staff. Haskell partnered with HINU to host a drive-thru COVID booster and Flu shot event.
- Hosted two after-hours pediatric COVID-19 vaccination events in November and December.
- Partnered with Lawrence Memorial Hospital to increase and streamline access to monoclonal antibody therapy for Haskell patients
- Acquired and dispensed over 500 COVID-19 home test kits to patients and staff.

Lawton Service Unit (LSU)

- LSU Public Health Nursing continue to partner with local tribes for community COVID-19 testing and vaccination events, as well as Influenza vaccination clinics. These include numerous community events held in coordination with Comanche Nation, Kiowa Tribe, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Apache Tribe and Wichita and Affiliated Tribe.
- LSU began Pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations at Riverside Indian Boarding School in conjunction with an area town hall. Acting Director Elizabeth Fowler along with key area office staff and local tribal leaders held a COVID-19 educational event for Riverside Indian School students.
- Pediatric clinic began offering COVID-19 vaccine through the clinic visits.

Pawnee Service Unit

- A planning committee was developed to prepare implementation of dental's newest service, Nitrous oxide. The committee developed policy and procedures for the dental nitrous oxide. Environmental Health and Bio Med Staff provided information related to appropriate gas exchange and air flow for patient and employee safety. A walk through and safety assessment was completed earlier this month and the new service was initiated in December.

Wewoka Service Unit

- School Wellness Employees stay in contact with local schools regarding COVID Vaccine opportunities.
- Community Health Director participates in Oklahoma State Department of Education Project SWITCH PE teacher cadre group. Director also participates in the WSCC (Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child) meetings. Director and Health Educators are assisting four local schools implement the WSCC model.
- Collaborated with the Seminole Nation Diabetes Program to offer Diabetes Awareness Health Fair and Education event in November.
- Provided stickball activity and cultural education to students at Varnum School during Native American month.
- In conjunction with the Seminole Nation Diabetes program, the first Walking, Education and Fun Day was held with forty-five participants.
- Collaborated with seven area schools to provide school based Jump Rope program one day per week.
- Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics held at the Seminole Nation Housing Authority, Varnum School, Konawa School, Seminole School, and local nursing home.

**Oklahoma City Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 2nd Quarter Report
October – December 2021**

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

Claremore Service Unit

- Interdepartmental PI initiated testing competency process, members included nursing leadership and laboratory supervisors. CIH plan to streamline and remove unnecessary steps to ensure that the process is standardized and practice remains compliant with accreditation bodies including CMS, TJC, and CAP.
- Mammography received their American College of Radiography (ACR) Accreditation following a recent survey. Mammography also had their yearly FDA inspection with zero findings.
- CIH held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new business annex. The business annex houses health information management, the business office, and other administrative offices.
- CIH invested in their second lactation POD to support breast feeding mothers and promote the Baby Friendly Program.

Clinton Service Unit (CSU)

- The nursing team developed an oncology referral management tracking system to facilitate coordination of care and began a colorectal screening initiative in partnership with the OU Stephenson Cancer Center through an MOA.
- Dental began to explore providing limited orthodontic services to pediatric/adolescent patients.
- Behavioral Health is leading a Zero Suicide Core team in the initiative on a system- wide, organizational commitment to safer care in suicide prevention.
- The multidisciplinary metabolic team aims to address metabolic health, obesity and the comorbidities. Two adult providers and one pediatrician are the lead clinicians. Presently, the service is available at El Reno and Watonga with plans to expand to the clinic in Clinton.
- The optometry department is planning to expand access for patients in need of contacts. Previously, the service was reserved for high risk patients.
- CSU has been working collaboratively with the dental department to assess access to care, patient volume and wait times.
- We have begun reviewing our empaneled patients to identify their last appointment date. This identifies the percent of patients seen by the primary care physician with in the year/months. We are continuing to break down the data and performing outreach to the patients who have not seen us to schedule appointments.

Haskell Service Unit

- Achieved Joint Commission Accreditation and recertification of the Patient Centered Medical Home.
- Initiated utilization of Joint Commission Tracers to improve data analytics and efficiency for survey readiness efforts.
- Compiled 3rd quarter quality standards metrics into a report and presented to the Oklahoma City Area Governing board for review.
- Completed QPR training for 100% of staff to identify methods for staff to respond to patients who may be suicidal.

**Oklahoma City Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 2nd Quarter Report
October – December 2021**

- The service unit collaborated with tribal and Haskell Indian Nations University to distribute COVID vaccine to patients across all priority groups to help limit the spread of the virus.

Lawton Service Unit

- The Anadarko Indian Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program celebrated its third cohort of participants that successfully completed the year-long National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP). The program focuses on nutrition, physical activity and weight loss.
- The Quality department worked with Area leadership to conduct a mock survey to identify necessary improvements.
- LSU continue to partner with tribes and respond to their testing or vaccination needs upon request. LSU engage non-tribal partners as necessary.

Pawnee Service Unit

- Pawnee Indian Health Center (PIHC) regularly practice drills on emergency codes. We also use the drills to assess what changes should be made to improve our response time and care for patients.
- PIHC staff practiced a Code Blue (Pediatric) Drill. As with all other drills, a scenario was created using a demonstration patient, in this case a CPR mannequin. All responding staff members performed exceptionally well and acted in accordance with their roles.

Wewoka Service Unit

- Community Health staff was involved with COVID response throughout the quarter. They are assisting with the front line screening, providing COVID vaccines, providing COVID testing and making the COVID testing result calls.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Claremore Service Unit

- Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Health and Claremore Indian Hospital collaborated for a site inspection of dietary kitchen in December. No violations were observed.
- The CIH leadership team was awarded the IHS Director's Team Award for the development and implementation of the Hospital Chaperone Badge. This award recognizes service that has significantly advanced the IHS mission and vision through work focused on the goals and objectives in the IHS Strategic Plan.
- CIH Pediatrics Department implemented HQ level AIMI Pediatric Vaccination Charter geared toward increasing the overall immunization percentage rate of children 3-27 months and adolescents.

Clinton Service Unit

- CSU hosted an active shooter tabletop drill with the Clinton Police, BIA, Air Evac, C/A Tribes' Ambulance personnel and health care providers, etc. in attendance.
- A multidisciplinary team of health care professionals consisting of clinicians, non-providers, contracting specialists, and the acquisitions team meet regularly in planning for the

**Oklahoma City Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 2nd Quarter Report
October – December 2021**

procurement of goods, equipment and supplies for the expansion of space and services for the new El Reno Indian Health Center.

- Information technology updates and changes implemented to better meet the needs of the workforce and services to patients.
- A new PACs server was installed on the network and with transition from old to new PACs.

Haskell Service Unit

- Installed a cell booster to improve access to patient health record enrollment, communications, and enhance safety across the facility.
- Purchased Referred Care meets with Lawrence Memorial Hospital bi-monthly to ensure that all patients receive ongoing care coordination for services that are not available at the service unit.
- The quality officer provides ongoing support to the Douglas County informatics team delivering de-identified vaccine data to the county. This data better reflects the number of Native Americans who have received the vaccine in our area.
- Implemented Joint Commission Tracers program to improve reporting efficiency and data analytics on Joint Commission Readiness Standards.

Lawton Service Unit

- Facebook posts are used for changes to hospital service delivery, hours, testing information, and COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Information is also shared regarding public health information related to COVID-19 and vaccinations.
- PHN continues to serve as points of contact for area tribes and businesses related to COVID-19 questions and need for health services.

Pawnee Service Unit

- This past year, despite the pandemic we were able to increase collections by adding patient registration to the drive-thru COVID testing/Flu Vaccine team. This addition allowed patient demographics and third party information to be captured, which helped the revenue stream.
- We are focused on Medicaid expansion and trying to enroll eligible patients. One of the unique situations we have within the Pawnee Service Area, we have high percentage of patients on private insurance and/or patients that are over income threshold.
- Business Office Manager provided flyers with information about Medicaid expansion and who to contact to apply to the Pharmacy as well as PRC. These flyers go out with the medication bags and referrals sent to patients. Another effort by the PRC program is to schedule the patients after they have applied for SoonerCare/Medicaid.

Wewoka Service Unit

- Helping to disseminate information through Facebook, letters and phone calls regarding COVID 19 and testing/vaccine opportunities.