

**Phoenix Area IHS  
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee  
FY2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report  
October - December 2022**

<p><b>Area Tribal Representatives:</b> Jordan Joaquin, President, <a href="#">Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe</a></p> <p>Jerome Kasey, III, Vice-Chairman, <a href="#">White Mountain Apache Tribe</a>, Alternate</p>	<p><b>Federal Liaison:</b> Hope Johnson, Phoenix Area Director, Office of Self-Determination &amp; Tribal Liaison</p>
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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**

- The Phoenix Indian Medical Center’s (PIMC) Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Center of Excellence continues to expand the HIV prevention program through Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Education sessions for primary care providers to increase PrEP enrollment.
- On October 29, 2022, PIMC Pharmacists and staff participated in the National Drug Take Back Day, providing patient education on proper disposal of unused and expired medications. 70 pounds of drugs were collected.
- PIMC’s Public Health Nutritionists kicked off the month of October with healthy holiday cooking, meal prep and cooking demonstrations for the Payson, San Lucy, Fort McDowell and the Prescott communities. Classes were held monthly in the communities from October to December 2002 for adults and children, while providing a fun, interactive, hands-on experience.
- Fort Yuma Service Unit (FYSU) continues to support Tribal partners by engaging in planning sessions for COVID-19 vaccine events for the “tender age” category and other vaccines such as the Bivalent booster and Flu. Three (3) community events were completed in December 2022.
- FYSU Physical Therapy Department expanded services to include lymphedema and pelvic floor care.
- Hopi Health Care Center (HHCC) cohosted several community health events in October including the Red Ribbon Run, “Drug Takeback” for substance abuse awareness, and a Trunk-or-Treat where families were able to participate in healthy and kid-friendly activities to learn more about the health care center and services provided.
- As an early point of entry to oral health care, the Whiteriver Service Unit (WRSU) Dental Department provided dental screening services to 36 parents/infants/toddlers in October 2022 to 25 parents/infants/toddlers in November 2022 at the at the Women, Infants, Children (WIC) location. Each child screened was given a bag of oral care items to promote preventative and early dental care.

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

- The Phoenix Indian Medical Center’s (PIMC) collaborative agreements with local hospitals and surgery centers have allowed PIMC to better serve our patient’s surgical needs. Continued partnerships with St. Joseph’s Outpatient Surgery Center, Valleywise Healthcare, and several Eye Surgery Centers allow PIMC surgeons and surgical subspecialists to expand elective surgical procedures at those facilities. New collaborative agreements with community partners are ongoing and these relationships will continue to provide additional capacity and access to care for our patients.
- PIMC’s Primary Care Medicine Clinic (Adult Primary Care) completed a targeted project focused on empanelment processes to reach the goal of real time empanelment for all patients who choose PIMC as their medical home. The clinic changed their empanelment workflow to decrease empanelment waitlist from more than 2200 in August 2022 to 0 in November 2022, ahead of their targeted

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schedule. The clinic is now able to empanel patients on same day with new Primary Care Provider (PCP) appointments within three weeks.

- On October 5, 2022. Whiteriver Service Unit (WRSU) completed an on-site Joint Commission (TJC) hospital accreditation survey. WRSU was re-accredited by TJC (for both the Hospital and the Primary Care Medical Home) and provided Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) deemed status effective October 5, 2022.
- In October 2022, the Phoenix Area Youth Regional Treatment Centers (YRTPCs) collaborated with a licensed board certified behavioral analyst (BCBA) counselor to provide expert onsite training to the counselor aides in the use of positive reinforcement as a tool to promote more effective change. This training was designed to improve front line direct care staff skills and to help foster an environment at the YRTPCs of positivity and healthy interactions between staff and the patients admitted with behavioral health diagnosis.
- WRSU Rehabilitation Services Department presented to students at Alchesay High School during the school's College Fair on November 9, 2022. They encountered 50 students and were invited to return for regular presentations at the school regarding Physical Therapy careers.

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

- All Phoenix Area Services Units adopted standardized Governing Board Bylaws in December 2022 to improve Governing Body operations and to be in alignment with the IHS priorities. October 5, 2022, the Uintah & Ouray (U&O) IHS Health Center participated in a joint community vaccination event in collaboration with the Ute Indian Tribe Emergency Management Program. During the 3 hour period, approximately 300 vaccinations were administered to the local community.
- Colorado River Service Unit (CRSU) now has two level II certified Contracting Officer's Representatives (COR) to assist with monitoring contracts and a third employee completed the COR Level II training in December and is awaiting certification. These additions will better enable CRSU to better monitor the many contracts that support operations throughout the service unit.
- The CRSU Quality department implemented Staff Development Program to coordinate and address training needs across the service unit, competencies, and stabilize the onboarding processes to meet or exceed accreditation requirements.
- On October 5, 2022, the Phoenix Area Youth Regional Treatment Centers (YRTPCs) IHS/Tribal Planning Workgroup (ITPW) met for the kick off meeting with the INNOVA group to complete a Program Justification Document (PJD) for the replacement of Desert Visions. Phase 1 of the Program Justification Document (PJD) was submitted to I.H.S Headquarters on November 18, 2022 for review and approval. This initial phase is the first step of many to replace Desert Visions facility.