

**Billings Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY 2020 3rd Quarter Report**

<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 IHS</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>Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana were federally recognized on December 21, 2019. Billings Area hosted an introductory meeting on January 29, 2020 to provide an orientation to the Indian Health Service, Billings Area Office and to review the process the Agency follows in the development of services. Monthly conference calls are held with the Tribe to ensure communication and identify steps necessary to establish health care services to tribal members.</p> <p>Billings Area continues to recruit qualified health care professionals and administrative professionals to strengthen our workforce, build staff capacity, improve processes and access to quality services. Key Leadership positions hired were the Billings Area Office Deputy Area Director, Fort Belknap Service Unit Chief Executive Officer and Fort Peck Service Unit Chief Executive Officer. In addition, the Billings Area Human Resources Department hired additional positions to improve the onboarding process.</p> <p>Billings Area Office conducts weekly general staff meetings via Skype to communicate updates and important information from Executive Leadership regarding COVID-19.</p> <p>Telehealth services are currently being offered at three service units in the Billings Area. Billings Area continues to expand telehealth services and awarded an area-wide contract to provide telehealth specialty clinics at all service units (Crow, Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne, Ft. Belknap, Fort Peck and Wind River). Equipment installation is underway and the specialty clinics are scheduled to start May-August 2020.</p> <p>Billings Area Office of Tribal Programs assisted IHS Headquarters with the Tribal Delegation Meeting (TDM) for the Fort Belknap Indian Community on the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP). The Office of Tribal Programs also provided technical assistance for the CHAP Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) with Area Representatives in developing CHAP TAG Policy.</p>	
<p>Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization</p>	
<p>Working in partnership with Tribal, County, State and local partners, the Billings Area Service Unit staff continue to work daily to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point of entry or outdoor triage was implemented to reduce the traffic within the service unit facilities, ensuring employee and patient safety. • Pharmacy refills were extended with drive up services available. • Providers and Case Managers are performing telephone consults for chronic care high risk patients. 	

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- Billings Area office purchased Bioquell BQ-SVC bio-decontamination system for each service unit. The system will be used to decontaminate rooms and will be used to sterilize N95 masks if needed.
- Service Units have partnered with Tribal, County, State Emergency Response Teams and local partners to share information, resources, supplies, and equipment needs for COVID-19 response.
- Mutual Aid Agreements are in place and Isolation/Quarantine options for all service units are being reviewed.

Billings Area Service Units (Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Ft. Belknap, Ft. Peck, and Wind River) have all successfully started testing with the ABBOTT Analyzers which has increased testing capacity. Each service unit is currently implementing processes to move forward with expansion of testing.

Billings Area Office of Tribal Programs began bi-weekly COVID-19 All Tribes and Urban Indian Health Calls to provide updates to the Tribes, Urban, and Service Unit health facilities.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Billings Area Purchase/Referred Care Program is expanding to include additional staff to assist with designing a program to support the needs of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indian of Montana through Purchased/Referred Care funds.

The Billings Area received and distributed a total of \$ 5,029,219.00 for COVID-19 related program funding for Area Direct Service Tribes, this total includes Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, and CARES Act funding totals.

The Office of Tribal Programs held a Budget Formulation Prep Session on January 21, 2020 with five (5) Tribal Area Representatives for participation in the IHS National Tribal Budget Formulation Work Session in Arlington, VA on February 13-14, 2020.