

Insert IHS Area Name
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2020 3rd Quarter Report
January – March 2020

Area Tribal Representatives:	Federal Liaison: Daniel Davis
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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

- In January the Area Office and Standing Rock Hospital staff participated in a listening session with Congresswoman Julia Brownley from California, Veterans Health Administration staff, the Standing Rock Veterans Office, various Congressional staff, Standing Rock Tribal leadership and local veterans. The intent of the listening session was to hear the challenges experienced by local veterans and receiving health care. Many issues were shared ranging from a need for a higher level of sensitivity for veterans, understanding their Behavior Health needs and making services more available. About 15 local veterans were present. The session included prayer and song. The visit closed with a tour of various healthcare facilities and a homeless shelter on the Standing Rock Reservation.
- In January the Area Office and Cheyenne River Health Center staff participated in a meeting with Congresswoman Julia Brownley from California, Veterans Health Administration staff, the Cheyenne River Veterans Office, various Congressional staff and Cheyenne River Tribal Leadership. Discussions primarily addressed improving the availability of services to local veterans from Cheyenne River.
- The Woodrow Wilson Keeble Health Center’s Diabetes program is now accredited by the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES). Accreditation from ADCES ensures the diabetes program abides by standards to provide quality education to improve patient outcomes. This accreditation will allow the facility to bill Medicare for diabetes self-management education/training.
- On March 30th, the Great Plains Area obligated and paid approximately \$2.3 Million in Families First Coronavirus Response Act funding to Tribes for testing. Approximately \$5.4 Million was distributed to the IHS Hospitals and Health Centers throughout the Area.
- The Wagner Health Center, the Area Office of Environmental Health and Engineering and the local Wagner Health Center Public Health Nursing program responded to a positive COVID 19 case on the Yankton Indian Reservation. The coordinated response helped ensure no community spread of the virus.

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

- Area Office and Headquarters staff met with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate concerning the need for a Substance Abuse Treatment Center. The Tribe currently manages the Alcohol and Substance Abuse PFSA. The Tribe is requesting that the IHS consider funding a feasibility study to identify the level of need and operating costs. The Area Office of Tribal Programs will be working with the Tribe on developing a demonstration project to complete the feasibility study.
- The Fort Thompson Health Center worked in partnership with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation to provide an in-service on internet crimes against children.
- The Area Officer performed an Environment of Care survey at the Fort Thompson Health Center utilizing the AAAHC standards for Infection Prevention and Control, Safety and Facilities. The included a Life Safety survey.
- The Rosebud Hospital and Rosebud Sioux Tribe collaborated through the Hospital's use of the Tribe's mobile clinic to implement exterior screening of patients. The Unit is set up outside of the Hospital where all patients are screened for COVID 19 before entering the Hospital.
- The Area Office of Environmental Health and Engineering will be working with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Oglala Lakota College located in Pine Ridge, South Dakota on securing the College's local dormitory as an alternate site to house Hospital Staff while responding to COVID 19. The idea for the dormitory would be to house staff that has been exposed to COVID 19 and needing a location to isolate.
- The Area Office of Information Technology formulated a plan to expand local telehealth technology in response to COVID 19 by installing more equipment in isolation rooms to monitor and work with patients with potential confirmed cases.
- All Area Hospitals and Health Centers implemented increased screening, monitoring and reporting measures to manage a response to COVID 19. Assessments of the Environment of Care was conducted in all facilities. Local and Area Leadership has implemented daily calls to ensure information and instructions are being shared.
- 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.

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Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

- The Fort Thompson Health Center hosted a culturally centered Mending Broken Hearts program addressing trauma and the journey to wellness. Staff received certifications as trainers.
- The Fort Thompson Health Center received notification from the South Dakota Department of Social Services that is approved to bill for services provided by the Community Health program.
- The Great Plains Area continues to develop a data team to ensure information is readily available 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. Staff has been assigned to this team and efforts to develop reporting processes has begun.