

**Albuquerque IHS Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 3rd Quarter Report
January-March 2022**

Area Tribal Representative: Donnie Garcia, Board Chairman, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board	Federal Liaison: Randall Morgan, Director, Office of Tribal Self Determination
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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 Incident Command System (ICS) Team in the Albuquerque Area continues to meet bi-weekly with federal and tribal ICS Teams in the field. Federal and Tribal health facilities throughout the Albuquerque Area continue to offer COVID-19 vaccinations with an emphasis on providing booster injections. Oral Antivirals are also administered at some sites, in accordance with established guidelines. COVID-19 Vaccines administered from January to April, 2022 is illustrated below:

2022	Prime Doses Administered	Prime Does Not Used	Booster Doses Administered	Booster Doses Not Used
January	82,963	3,735	80,855	1,790
February	90,149	4,249	85,186	3,859
March	91,903	3,895	87,180	3,565
April	92,036	3,762	87,308	3,437

- On March 31, 2022, the Jicarilla Service Unit Optometry Department screened Head Start students.
- The Zuni Hospital initiated two programs designed improve the delivery of Emergency Department (ED) services
 - The Mount Saini School of Medicine has partnered with Zuni Hospital to ensure provider competence with invasive procedures required in the ED. On April 9-10, 2022, eighteen physicians underwent an intensive, hands-on training focused on seven life-saving procedures. Following the training, all participants documented significantly improved expertise and comfort with these low-volume but high-risk procedures. These skills will be sustained through ongoing education and assessments over the next two years.
 - Zuni Hospital is one of six IHS sites participating in the Emergency Management Services for Children Hybrid Simulation Program. This program also leverages academic partnerships, with the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia providing training and technical consultation to improve pediatric emergency care. A site visit occurred on March 16th, 2022 during which the ED staff participated in simulation-based trainings, a Pediatric Readiness Assessment was performed, and areas for improvement were identified. Over the next year, the program will work to support these improvements.

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

- On February 27, 2022, the Jicarilla Service Unit successfully attained accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and Dental Medical Home Accreditation.
- On February 16, 2022, the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Indian Hospital transitioned to an accredited ambulatory outpatient clinic. The healthcare facility is now referred to as the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Indian Health Center (Health Center) and operates Monday through Friday. Prior to this

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transition, on October 14, 2021, the Health Center received a letter of accreditation from the AAAHC.

- On February 23, the Area Director announced the selection of Dr. Thomas Faber, MD, MPH, FAAP, CPPS as the new Albuquerque Area Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Faber is Dual Board-Certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Dr. Faber has achieved the rank of Captain in the Commissioned Corps and comes to the Albuquerque Area Office from his former position as the Clinical Director of the Zuni Indian Hospital, a position he held since July of 2012. Prior to that he served as the Chief of Medical Staff and Medical Officer at the Zuni Indian Hospital starting in 2006. Dr. Faber has also been the Indian Health Service Chief Clinical Consultant for Pediatrics since March of 2019. Dr. Faber received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University then obtained his Master's in Public Health degree and Medical Degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, MA. This was followed by him completing a Harvard Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency program from the Massachusetts General Hospital and Children's Hospital in Boston, MA. To further his professional development, Dr. Faber obtained his Certification in Professional Patient Safety. He has been heavily involved in leadership and change implementation throughout his career and continues to be a leader for these types of initiatives. In addition to what has been noted, Dr. Faber has also been active with providing training opportunities for medical students and residents at the Zuni Indian Hospital.
- The Mescalero Service Unit recently obtained Accreditation from AAAHC for ambulatory care, urgent care and Patient Centered Medical Home.
- At the Jicarilla Service Unit, the Housekeeping/Infection Control Officer trained three Custodial Workers that resulted in each employee obtaining certification as a Health Care Environmental Services Technician by the American Healthcare Association.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

- On April 5, 2022, the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service held a virtual Area Tribal Consultation meeting with tribal leaders and tribal representatives to provide Agency updates. This consultation included presentations and remarks by the Acting IHS Director and the Department of Health and Human Services Regional Directors from Regions VI and VIII.
- Near the end of 2021, Mr. Clyde Yatsattie was selected as the permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Taos/Picuris Service Unit (TPSU). Mr. Yatsattie returned to the Albuquerque Area IHS after retiring from the Zuni Service Unit in 2017 where he was the Administrative Officer for 23 years. He has over 33 years of IHS experience and has served in many administrative roles including working at the Albuquerque Area Office in the finance and auditing offices early in his IHS career. Mr. Yatsattie is a member of the Zuni Pueblo and graduated from Eastern New Mexico University with a major in Accounting as well as a Master of Business Administration degree.
- On January 19, 2022, Ms. Dorlynn Simmons was appointed the Acting CEO for the Mescalero Service Unit (MSU) until the vacant CEO position is re-advertised. As Acting CEO, Ms. Simmons will provide overall managerial oversight to the administrative and clinical outpatient medical services. Other major duties include implementing a strategic plan to maximize the facility's operating practices, be responsible for Service Unit compliance with fiscal policies of the IHS, and maintain effective communication with the recognized leaders of the Indian tribes served by MSU.
- On January 6, 2022, Ms. Olowan DeHerrera was assigned the responsibility and commensurate authority as the acting CEO for the New Sunrise Residential Treatment Center (NSRTC) while the vacant CEO position is advertised to be filled. Ms. DeHerrera will provide managerial oversight to

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include both the administrative and clinical outpatient medical services provided to the eligible Native American patients served. Other major duties include implementing a strategic plan to maximize the facility's operating practices, be responsible for fiscal policy compliance and maintain effective communication with the recognized leaders of the tribes served within the Service Unit. Ms. DeHerrera's position of record is Public Health Nurse Consultant in the Division of Clinical Quality.

- The Jicarilla Service Unit successfully recruited an Information Technology Specialist to help address the technological needs of health programs and staff to improve healthcare delivery to patients.
- On March 16, 2022, Dr. Faber and Mr. Randall Morgan, Director of Tribal Self Determination provided an overview to Service Unit Clinical Directors (CDs) on reviewing and evaluating scopes of work associated with tribal ISDEAA contracts. CDs help review ISDEAA contract proposals to evaluate the clinical programs and activities described in scopes of work.