

**Oklahoma City Area IHS
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2023 3rd Quarter Report
January – March 2023**

Area Tribal Representatives:		Federal Liaison: Oliver Blackstar
	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>Oklahoma City Area Federally operated clinics and hospital have implemented the E3 Vaccine Strategy. The focus of this strategy is to offer vaccines due to every patient, every encounter, and every recommended vaccine. Education and training has been provided to all settings and the strategy is becoming embedded into daily operations. Across all sites vaccinations are being promoted through outreach, social media and at every patient encounter.</p> <p>The Clinton Service Unit - Metabolic Clinic - Clinton Service Unit’s Metabolic Clinic aims to address metabolic health, obesity and the comorbidities that result from these issues. The clinic is very active seeing patients and growing rapidly. Using the four pillars of the Obesity Medicine Association to provide comprehensive, evidence based approach to treating obesity – nutrition, physical activity, behavior, and medication. Current weight loss total 4067 pounds with an average weight loss of 12.6 pounds per patient. Average starting BMI 42.65 and the current average is BMI 39.44.</p> <p>Clinton Service Unit - Chronic Disease Management Clinic – The pharmacy department in collaboration with the medical staff initiated a chronic disease management clinic this quarter for patients needing additional monitoring or assistance achieving blood pressure, blood glucose, and/or lipid goals. Twenty four (24) patients have been enrolled into the program and we are already seeing significant results. For example, one patient has improved their A1C from over 16 to 8 in just four months. The clinic visits allow time to address and to help break through some of this patient’s barriers to care, including medication education and disease state education. We are excited to see the impact this will have for our patients!</p> <p>The Pawnee Pharmacy collaborated with the OK Medical Sharps Take-Back Expansion Program. This program provides an avenue for local residents to safely dispose of their used sharps. Keeping sharps out of landfills will help protect our environment, sanitation workers, and community. A red kiosk with a secured hopper bin was placed in the Pharmacy lobby. Patients can bring their used sharps contained in a suitable heavy plastic container and place them in the hopper for disposal.</p> <p>Both the Pawnee and Clinton Service Units expanded MRI services with the Pawnee facility increasing availability to 5 days a week and the Clinton facilities expanding to 2 days per week at the Clinton location and 2 days per week at the El Reno location. Clinton MRI contract also allows for expanded services to the pediatric population as well.</p> <p>The Clinton, Haskell, Wewoka, and Pawnee Indian Health Centers all added an Endocrinologist to the team of specialty providers. The Endocrinologist is located at the Oklahoma City Area office and is providing both telehealth and onsite access to the facilities on a routine schedule.</p>	

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	<p>The Pawnee Nation is moving forward with the construction of a 26-bed substance abuse treatment center. The center will include Outpatient and Inpatient services for the community. Groundbreaking is scheduled for August 3rd and construction to commence at the end of August. Pawnee Indian Health Center is working in partnership with the Pawnee Nation to support this valued service.</p> <p>The Haskell Indian Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program collaborated with the Light House Center to provide healthy cooking classes to Haskell Indian Nations University students, focusing on teaching them how to eat more nutritious foods with the resources they have available in a college dorm setting.</p> <p>The Lawton Indian Hospital Radiology Department began offering Cardiac Computed Tomography Angiography exams (CTA). The benefits of this exam are that it is non-invasive and provides diagnostic information to guide physicians for specialty referral needs.</p> <p>Wewoka Indian Health Center has initiated a project to improve the new employee orientation and onboarding process. The team has initiated several modifications to the current process including: refined orientation content, developed a consistent schedule of presenters, developed back up presenters, and improved the cultural component by touring the Seminole Museum. This project has decreased the number of days to complete orientation by 50%. In 2023, WIHC has completed orientation in an average of 3 days.</p>
	<p>Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization</p>
	<p>The Pawnee Audiology department has added vestibular testing to its Audiology services. The new testing equipment will allow our Audiologist to assess, diagnose, and treat vestibular disorders. Pawnee Audiologist Dr. April Graham is credentialed to provide the following services: Videonystagmography (VNG), Electrocochleography (ECOG), Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potential (VEMP), and Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing services.</p> <p>Haskell Indian Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program launched the first 100% virtual diabetes prevention program among Federal Sites in the Oklahoma City Area – enrolling 13 participants across the state in remote areas who would not have been able to participate in live program.</p> <p>Wewoka Indian Health Center partnered with Oklahoma Medical Sharps Collection Infrastructure Expansion Program. The program enables residents to drop off used sharps, which will protect people and the environment. As part of this program, a red kiosk was installed in the clinic lobby. Patients and community members using self-injecting medications usually dispose of their sharps in laundry detergent or other type jugs. Medical containers for sharps are dispensed for patients to place their injectable in after use. This collection program allows patients and community members to have a local resource to safely drop off sharps containers in the kiosk at the clinic.</p>

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	<p>The Lawton Indian Hospital was selected to receive funding from the IHS Headquarters – Division of Nursing Services Forensic Healthcare funding opportunity. The funding is intended for building and/or expanding forensic nursing services at the Service Unit.</p> <p>The Lawton Indian Hospital applied for Bronze (Level 3) Pain and Addiction Care in the Emergency Department (PACED) accreditation. PACED is an American College of Emergency Physicians-governed national accreditation program which seeks to improve pain management for patients in the emergency department.</p> <p>The Claremore Indian Hospital Diabetes Education Program partnered with patient benefits coordinators, Cherokee Nation Community Health Nursing, Cherokee Nation public health educators, Rogers County Public Health, and Blue Cross Blue Shield to host a Diabetes Alert Day Walk. The event was free and open to employees, patients and community members. A total of 65 participants joined and gathered information from the various table setups.</p>
Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations	
	<p>The Clinton Service Unit received three federal grants that will increase behavioral health services. The goal of the first two awards is to reduce suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native populations by improving care coordination, expanding behavioral health care services through the use of culturally appropriate evidenced based and practice models to address suicide; and developing early intervention strategies for youth at risk. The purpose of the third award is to reduce the prevalence of substance use and decrease the overall use of addicting and illicit substances among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations. The names of the specific awards are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zero Suicide Initiative Federal Award (ZI). \$142,000 annually for 5 years 2023 through 2027 funding is a five year cycle permitting federal funds available. ○ Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention federal Award (SPIP). \$250,000 for one year, January 23, 2023 to January 24, 2024. ○ Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Aftercare Program Project (SAPTA). \$250,000 for one year. ● Behavioral Health Outreach: With the release of the new grants and also the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes receives the 988 grant, Clinton Service Unit plans to focus community outreaches toward behavioral health services such as suicide and substance abuse prevention. The Clinton Service Unit will partner with the tribe to host events, town halls, etc. to develop action plans. <p>The Clinton Service Unit is partnering with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Health Board for monthly town hall meetings. The town halls will included topics such radiology services, personal health record, optometry services. We plan to have audiology, PRC, PHN, behavioral health and business office present topics in the coming months.</p> <p>The Pawnee public Health team is seeking to improve TD/TDAP, Hep B, and Shingrix vaccination rates for the native diabetic populations in the communities around Pawnee Indian Health Center. The team has attended numerous area tribal health fairs and has collaborated with area tribal clinics to educate diabetic patients on the importance of receiving these important vaccines.</p>

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	<p>The Pawnee Indian Health Center Purchased Referred Care team met with PRC representatives from other tribal health clinics in the Pawnee service area to provide training on the Pawnee PRC process as well as hear feedback from our tribal clinic partners. The PRC meetings will continue on a quarterly basis and provide a nice opportunity to interact with our tribal partner clinics on issues pertaining the PRC.</p> <p>The Haskell Indian Health Center information technology department partnered with the purchased referred care department to implement a secure digital fax solution that will greatly increase the efficiency and communication with outside care sources in coordinating additional care for our patients.</p> <p>The Lawton Indian Hospital hired a Revenue Director to administer the revenue cycle, including capturing, managing, and collecting third party revenue. The position is part of the Executive Leadership team and will serve to strengthen the Service Unit’s performance and evaluation of revenue collection processes.</p> <p>The Wewoka Indian Health Center is in the final stages of purchasing a mobile medical van to improve patient access to care. The mobile van will travel to remote settings to help address patient difficulties with transportation and expand access. The 35 foot walk-in mobile medial vehicle will be equipped with 2 exam areas and a setting area.</p> <p>Claremore Indian Hospital Physical Therapy department procured and implemented the use of blood flow restriction rehabilitation. This modality speeds up recover for post-operative injuries like an ACL repair, Rotator Cuff repair. Thus, allowing more appointment to become available for additional patient access and allow patients to return to activity participation/sport/work sooner.</p> <p>The Claremore Indian Hospital Emergency Department became the first hospital in Oklahoma to receive geriatric emergency department accreditation from the American College of Emergency Physicians. This initiative aims to improve and standardize emergency care for the nation’s elderly patients, and promotes geriatric-focused education, policies and protocols. Claremore Indian Hospital has designated three geriatric nurse champions who have completed geriatric emergency nurse education through the Emergency Nurses Association to build a foundation of geriatric knowledge, educate staff and improve emergency department outcomes for older adults.</p>