

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

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

- Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) HIV Center of Excellence continues to expand the HIV prevention program through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). All Primary Care Providers in the adult Primary Care Clinic now prescribe PrEP to eligible patients.
- PIMC Anesthesia Department is collaborating with the Mayo Clinic Anesthesia Residency Program to introduce trainees to culturally responsive care for American Indian/Alaska Native communities and provide recruitment opportunities for the IHS. The first resident rotations started in April, 2023.
- In January, 2023, the Whiteriver Service Unit (WRSU) Emergency Department Director hosted the Emergency Medicine IHS Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) session entitled, “Boarding the Bronchiolitis Patient: Bringing Inpatient Pediatric Care to the Emergency Department”. The discussion combined Pediatric Emergency Medicine physicians, Pediatricians, and Pediatric Respiratory Therapists to share best practices on the intermediate term care of the bronchiolitis patient.
- The Uintah & Ouray Service Unit (U&O SU) Behavioral Health Department was awarded \$2.2 million dollars in funding from three Federal Funding Opportunities; the Zero Suicide Initiative (ZSI), Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Aftercare (SAPTA), and Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and “Postvention” (SPIP). Over the next five years, this funding will provide additional resources and training to collaborate and improve care coordination with the Ute Indian Tribe and local community groups to serve behavioral/mental needs in the area.
- Colorado River Service Unit (CRSU) leadership in collaboration with Southwest Region Human Resources leadership added Kiosks throughout CRSU for public use for applying for federal positions and pre-recruitment process completion for selectees.

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

- PIMC Audiology department procured new equipment (5 complete sets) to conduct diagnostic and treatment services for field clinics, and support standardization of audiology equipment and systems across the Phoenix Area to expand hybrid service delivery via in-person and telehealth.
- In March, 2023, the PIMC Pharmacy Immunization clinic, the WRSU, and the Hopi Healthcare Center (HHCC) were officially designated by IHS as IHS E3 Vaccine Champion Sites. IHS advocates recommending vaccines to our patients with the E3 Vaccine Strategy, focusing on: 1) Every patient at 2) Every encounter should be offered 3) Every recommended vaccine [when appropriate](#).
- In February, 2023, WRSU Emergency Department leadership implemented new process for obtaining an electrocardiogram (EKG) on indicated ED patients leading to a 50% reduction in time to EKG.
- In February, 2023, the WRSU Emergency Department Director presented to the Emergency Medicine IHS ECHO, “The Laboring Patient: Evaluation, Disposition and Handling Complicated

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

Deliveries”. The talk educated rural Emergency Medicine clinicians on the care of normal labor, the assessment of a laboring patient for transfer, and interventions for common complications.

- In March, 2023, WRSU Family Care Unit completed implementation of bedside computing solution for data entry and medication scanning at the bedside. This strengthens consistency with scanning patient wristbands, safety, and enhances infection control practices.
- In March, 2023, the IHS Division of Nursing Services awarded WRSU funding to build and/or expand forensic nursing services, and to ensure patient-centered, trauma-informed resources such as medical forensic examinations are available.
- In March, 2023, WRSU was awarded the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Grant to decrease syphilis infections through increased community engagement.
- Elko Service Unit (ESU) exceeded GPRA goal for glycemic control for the first time as a result of multiple “Plan, Do, Study, Act” cycle changes and quality improvement activities.
- Colorado River Service Unit (CRSU) Emergency Department (ED) earned Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) in March through the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). This accreditation ensures geriatric patients receive well-coordinated, quality care at the appropriate level at every ED encounter.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

- PIMC Behavioral Health department partnered with University of Arizona, to rotate Banner University Psychiatry Fellows through Behavioral Health to obtain clinical contact and experiences in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and to improve care for patients and recruitment of psychiatrists.
- PIMC Optometry department established a partnership with the Midwestern University for Optometry students to intern for a six-month rotations at PIMC.
- The Ute Indian Tribe Painted Horse Diabetes program and Uintah & Ouray Service Unit (U&O SU) collaborated to develop the Wellness Empowerment (WE) program. The program offers support and encouragement to participants as they embrace their personal health journey. The WE program is facilitating visits to IHS providers in areas such as Primary Care, Optometry, Dental, Behavioral Health and Nutrition.
- In March, 2023, the HHCC Laboratory was successfully reaccredited with The Joint Commission.