

**Insert IHS Area Name**  
**Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee**  
**FY2020 4th Quarter Report**  
**April - June 2020**

<b>Area Tribal Representatives:</b>	<b>Federal Liaison:</b> Daniel Davis
<b>Goal 1: To ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since March 2020, and the onset of COVID-19, Great Plains Area Health Centers and Hospitals have partnered with Tribes, various State entities and the National Guard to provide community mass testing. Locations include Turtle Mountain, Standing Rock, Sisseton, Fort Thompson, Lower Brule, Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Yankton and Pine Ridge.</li><li>• The Great Plains Area awarded approximately \$33 Million in various Cares Act Funding to Tribal Contracts for responding the COVID-19. The Area continues to work with Tribes with awarding about \$24 Million Paycheck Protection funding for testing.</li><li>• The Great Plains Area has managed approximately \$150 Million in COVID-19 response funding.</li><li>• The Great Plains Area has provided technical support to the Trenton Indian Service Area throughout most of the Calendar Year 2020. The TISA has made many efforts and improvements in their healthcare organization to address multiple self-identified deficiencies. The Great Plains Area had responded to the TISA providing guidance and assistance addressing some of those needs.</li><li>• The Great Plains Area worked with the Sisseton Wahpeton Tribe on a Model Demonstration project to complete a feasibility study to construct a new Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Center. The Tribe has been experiencing a number of issues throughout their community with opioids. The Tribe would like to build a facility to treat the local need and possibly offer services to other Tribes in the region.</li></ul>	

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

- In June 2020, the Pine Ridge Hospital earned The Joint Commissions Gold Seal of Approval for Hospital Accreditation. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also granted the Pine Ridge Hospital with deemed accreditation status on the basis of the The Joint Commission accreditation. This means the hospital can now participate in the Medicare program and receive reimbursement for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.
- The Fort Thompson Dental Program hosted a drive-through and walk-up dental clinic providing dental assessments and applying fluoride treatments to 119 patients.
- The Great Plains Area has developed an internal comprehensive tracking system for COVID-19 cases and testing. The effort is lead by the Area’s recently hired Data Management Specialist, Abby Bacon. Information from each Federal and Tribal site includes positivity rates, case management information, testing supply inventory, employee information, recovery rates, hospitalization information and comparisons to other Area, State and Federal information. Both Tribes and Federal facilities provide information daily to develop the tracking system. Locations also provide issues they may be dealing with and the Area responds accordingly. The system has helped the Area and Federal and Tribal Locations better track and share information to respond to COVID-19.
- The Great Plains Area initiated the “Great Plains Area Healthcare Heroes” weekly report to recognize special efforts throughout the Great Plains Area. Some recent events are such as the Fort Thompson Well Child visit on June 22, where 78 children received dental screening, health exams, eye screening, immunizations and education on practicing good health. Another week recognized the Cheyenne River Health Center for their COVID-19 drive through mass testing event where they tested 891 patients. Another event that was recognized where the Pine Ridge Hospital and the Oglala Sioux Tribe partnered during a mass testing event for COVID-19.
- The Great Plains Area also used a “Shout Out” email announcement to recognize innovative efforts throughout the Area. One example was at Rosebud when the MSA’s at the front desk had a plexiglass barrier installed to protect the staff and patients from transmitting COVID-19. Another shout out went to the Cheyenne River Health Center who designed t-shirts to show support and appreciation to Nurses.
- The Great Plains Area hosts a weekly call with all Area Tribes to share information concerning COVID-19.
- The Great Plains Area participates in a weekly call with the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning COVID-19 that includes all Tribes throughout the Great Plains Region.
- The Great Plains Area participates in regular calls with the States of South Dakota and North Dakota concerning COVID-19.
- The Great Plains Area coordinated the distribution of Abbot ID NOW testing equipment and testing supplies and reagents to both Federal and Tribal Locations throughout the Area.

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**Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations**

- The Great Plains Area hired key Area Office staff to help strengthen program management. The Director of Quality and Compliance position was filled in June. And a Data Management Specialist was hired on in April.