

**IHS Billings Area
Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee
FY2022 4th Quarter Report
April – June 2022**

Area Tribal Representatives:	Federal Liaison: Jennifer LaMere, Acting Director, Office of Tribal Programs, Billings Area
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>Northern Cheyenne Service Unit introduced the velscope cancer screening tool into the comprehensive dental exam protocol, this screening could reveal early stage oral cancer. Dental has also added a sleep apnea screening protocol into the comprehensive exam.</p> <p>Northern Cheyenne Service Unit is collaborating with the Tribal Diabetes Program and have improved access to continuous glucose monitoring devices to lower patient blood sugar levels.</p> <p>Crow Service Unit announced the restart of pediatric inpatient admissions starting July 2022; services will provide inpatient care to patients 12-17 years old.</p> <p>Crow Service Unit Public Health Nutritionist established a Tele-Nutrition workgroup for Billings Area Service Unit Nutritionists to collaborate. The workgroup is working on Tele-Nutrition workflow and the Public Health Nutritionist created a Tel-Nutrition guide that was distributed across the Indian Health Service and will be published on the Indian Health Service website under Diabetes Best Practices.</p> <p>Fort Peck Service Unit's grand opening of the White Buffalo Clinic and remodel of the Verne E. Gibbs Clinic was held on June 29, 2022. The new White Buffalo Clinic includes Dental, Optometry, Audiology, Purchased Referred Care, Health Information Management and Business Office.</p> <p>Fort Peck Service Unit in collaboration with the State of Montana Vaccines for Children Program successfully passed its yearly visit for adhering to program requirement compliance. Public Health Nursing provides vaccines to children at no cost and is intended to improve vaccine availability, immunization coverage aimed at decreased disparities in access to health care.</p> <p>Fort Peck Service Unit in collaboration with the Fort Peck Tribes' entered into an agreement to increase access to quality dental care through the Tribal Sponsorship Health Insurance Program (TSHIP) by offering dental insurance through delta dental a nationwide dental insurance provider.</p>	
Goal 2: To promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization	
<p>Fort Belknap Service Unit Emergency Services added Paramedic Advanced Life Support, this allows for increased patient care services when transporting from the service units rural location to larger hospitals.</p>	

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Northern Cheyenne Service Unit filled two (2) Primary Care Coordinator (PCC) positions allowing the Service Unit to return to care coordination services. These services provide patients access to a more customized approach to improving their health. Meeting with a PCC includes a more detailed review of medications, better understanding of treatment plans and an opportunity to set goals that are meaningful to the patient. Outcomes will be improved health and better management of disease conditions.

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit Safety Department had several accomplishments during this reporting period which included completing respiratory fit testing for 70% of staff in the first half of the year. Provided Safety and Infection Control Orientation to 76% of staff. Cleared EComp backlog and provided oversight of the development and approval of departmental fire and evacuation plans.

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit Dental Department hired a registered Dental Assistant with expanded functions credentials allowing Dentists to treat more patients and/or deal with administrative tasks. The program was able to restart community based prevention programs such as the school sealant program.

Wind River Service Unit Chief Executive Officer has convened an EMS Community Partners Coalition (ECPC) to explore ambulance services near the health center campus to reduce response times to the service unit calls and need for transportation to the hospital.

Wind River Service Unit continues to host bi-weekly meetings with the Eastern Shoshone Tribal Health representatives and the Service Unit CEO conducts biweekly one-on-one meetings with the Tribal Health Director to maintain open communications and explore collaboration opportunities to leverage resources in serving the community. Additionally, the Service Unit has continued to participate in the bi-weekly Tribal and community partners virtual meetings hosted by the State of Wyoming Department of Health.

Crow Service Unit Pharmacy Residency Program is the first Pharmacy Residency Program in the Billings Area and only Pharmacy Residency Program at a Critical Access Hospital in Montana. The Program continues to train and accept residents and is currently training its third resident. This resident has agreed to continue serving the IHS after residency and has accepted a position with the Crown Point Health Care facility in Crown Point, NM. Her residency project focused on expanding utilization of injectable naltrexone for alcohol use disorder. She has also developed, received approval for and implemented system changes in our electronic health record to improve antibiotic prescribing and dosing. Crow Service Unit will have a fourth resident start in August 2022.

Fort Peck Service Unit (Verne E. Gibbs Clinic, Chief Redstone Clinic and White Buffalo Clinic) were notified they were awarded Accreditation for Ambulatory Health Care by The Joint Commission with certification for Primary Care Medical Home effective June 15, 2022. The initial onsite review focused on the overall compliance structure for safety and quality of patient care, delivery and compliance with Ambulatory Health Center standards spanning several areas including leadership, national patient safety goals, emergency management, environment of care, infection prevention and control, medication management and rights and responsibilities of the individual.

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Blackfeet Service Unit (Blackfeet Community Hospital and Heart Butte Health Center) were notified they were awarded Hospital Accreditation by The Joint Commission with certification for Primary Care Medical Home effective June 29, 2022. The Blackfeet Service Unit underwent a rigorous onsite review with focus on emergency management, life safety, infection prevention and control, and national patient safety goals including care for patients with suicidal ideation.

Little Shell Health Center Acting Chief Executive Officer attended the Little Shell Tribal Council meetings in April and May 2022 to provide updates regarding the new Little Shell Health Center in Great Falls, Montana.

Billings Area Office of Quality coordinated an onsite mock survey for The Joint Commission accreditation readiness at the Fort Belknap Service Unit in June 2022. Billings Area Office and Service Unit staff participated in the mock survey.

Billings Area Office of Quality holds monthly Lunch and Learn sessions for all staff on topics aligning with the application of knowledge from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) curriculum on Safety and Clinical Quality.

Goal 3: To strengthen IHS program management and operations

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit updated 100% of operational plans and policies, successfully implemented COVID-19 vaccine competencies via MCN Policy Manager and implemented procedures for new ID Badge Policy (security) for visitors and employees.

Billings Area Contracting Department hosts Contracting 101 bi-weekly virtual meetings with Billings Area Office and Service Unit staff to assist staff with information and training regarding the acquisition process.

Billings Area Director accompanied the Innova Group in a state-wide tour of the Montana Urban Indian Health Programs in May 2022. The Innova Group will provide the Indian Health Service with a comprehensive Urban Indian Organization (UIO) Infrastructure Study Report detailing findings and recommendations to support future health care planning for the 41 UIOs across the nation.

Billings Area Director of Revenue and Office of Tribal Programs staff met with Tribal Leaders and Tribal Health Board members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in June 2022 to provide an overview of the P.L. 93-638 contracting process and answered questions relating to the Tribes current contract and health programs.

Billings Area Office of Environmental Health and Engineering staff and IHS Headquarters Division of Facilities Planning and Construction staff met with the Northern Arapaho Tribal Council and Tribal Health Director in June 2022 to discuss the Wind River Joint Venture Construction Project.