2017 Annual PHN Conference

The Power of a Culture of Health: Advancing Health Equity, Social Justice, and Public Health Nursing Practice

Indian Health Service Public Health Nursing Program
National Partners Panel Presentation
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Tina Tah, RN/BSN, MBA
Senior Nurse Consultant, Public Health Nursing
Indian Health Service
Division of Nursing
Rockville, MD
Presentation Objectives:

- Describe the Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Describe the Public Health Nursing (PHN) Program
- Describe public health resources available in the IHS
- Provide 2 examples of the value and impact of PHN’s involvement in preventing disease in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities
American Indians and Alaska Natives

Unique Health Care Entitlement

- Based on Supreme Court decisions, treaties, legislation, and Executive Orders

- Federally recognized Tribal members have a unique entitlement to federally funded services for health care services

- The IHS is responsible for fulfilling this federal trust responsibility
The Indian Health Care System:

- **Indian Health Service (IHS) direct health care services**
  IHS services are administered through a system of 12 Area offices and 170 IHS and tribally managed service units.

- **Tribally operated health care services**
  Titles I and V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, as amended), provide Tribes the option of exercising their right to self-determination by assuming control and management of programs previously administered by the federal government. Since 1992, the IHS has entered into agreements with tribes and tribal organizations to plan, conduct, and administer programs authorized under Section 102 of the Act. Today, over sixty percent of the IHS appropriation is administered by Tribes, primarily through self-determination contracts or self-governance compacts.

- **Urban Indian health care services and resource centers**
  There are 34 urban programs that provide services ranging from community health to comprehensive primary health care.

**Population Served:**

- Members of 567 federally recognized Tribes
- 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives

**Annual Patient Services (Tribal and IHS facilities):**

- Inpatient Admissions: 39,305
- Outpatient visits: 13,742,078

**Appropriations:**

- FY 2015 IHS budget appropriation: $4.6 billion
- FY 2016 IHS budget appropriation: $4.8 billion

**Human Resources:**

- Total IHS employees: 15,369
- Includes 2,648 nurses, 725 physicians, 698 pharmacists, 272 dentists, 115 physician assistants, and 110 sanitarians.
Agency Priorities

- **People**
  - Recruit, develop and retain a dedicated, competent, caring health workforce collaborating to achieve the IHS mission.

- **Partnerships**
  - Build, strengthen and sustain collaborative relationships that advance mental, social, and spiritual health.

- **Quality**
  - Excellence in everything we do to assure a high-performing Indian health system.

- **Resources**
  - Secure and effectively manage the assets needed to promote the IHS mission
Agency Mission

- Agency Mission:
  - IHS mission: To raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

- PHN Program by engaging the community
  - Renew and strengthen partnership with Tribal and community-based health services
  - To improve the quality of and access to care
Challenges for IHS

- Increasing rates of chronic disease
- High prevalence of High BP, Heart Disease, obesity, DM
- Population growth increasing demand for healthcare services
- Providing Health care in the Rural and Urban settings
- Resources to meet demand of services
- Rising health care costs and medical inflation
PHNs Improve Care

- The PHNs are BSN prepared RNs
- PHN Home visits and referral follow up
  - Prenatal, infants, pediatrics, high risk families, elders, etc
- Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
  - Health education, health screening, chronic care disease care & care coordination
- Immunization clinics within the facility and in the community
- Community screening and education
  - Community centers, wellness centers, vendor sites, schools, correctional facilities, health fairs, chapter houses
- Communicable disease surveillance and follow up
- Case management and coordination of health and social services at local, county, state levels
Public Health Programs

- Office of Clinical and Preventive Services
- Office of Information Technology
- Office of Public Health Support
- Office of Resource Access and Partnerships
- Office of Finance and Accounting
- Office of Management Services
- Office of Environmental Health and Engineering
PHN Data mart
Public Health Achievements

Examples of PHN impact on services

- Vaccination
- Healthier Mothers and Babies
Influenza vaccine

PHN Programs work to increase Influenza vaccine coverage among the IHS Active user population and to achieve the Healthy People 2020 goal of 70% coverage in all age groups.

- Share best practices to engage PHN Programs to improve these rates.
- Collaborate with IHS Immunization Program
PHN Activity

PHN GPRA Clinical Indicators Report
Adult Influenza Vaccines (Ages 65+)
GPRA Years 2014-2016
NDW Data as of 4-16-2017

Based on data from RPMS data search, 10/24/14
Involving the Tribe and the community
Let’s Move! in Indian Country

- The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was part of the *Let’s Move! in Indian Country* initiative and part of First Lady Michelle Obama’s *Let’s Move!* initiative.

- This effort brought together federal agencies, communities, nonprofits, corporate partners, and tribes with the goal of ending the epidemic of childhood obesity in Indian Country within a generation.

- BFHI is a quality improvement process to improve breastfeeding rates through new maternity care and infant feeding practices.
Healthier Mothers and Babies

**Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative:**

- Increase breastfeeding initiation and duration
- Create a healthy start to life
- Prevent childhood obesity
- Co-administered by the World Health Organization and UNICEF
PHN involvement in BFHI

- PHN Prenatal visit to education mom on benefits of breastfeeding
- PHN postpartum/newborn visit occurs within 2-4 days after baby is discharged from hospital.
- Home visits for weight checks and breastfeeding support are scheduled as needed based on initial assessment.
- Collaboration with mother and family in the event that medical attention is needed.
- Routine follow-up appointments should be kept with OB Provider.
- Plan with community partners for outreach including talks from elders, community walks and table presentations.
- PHN’s working in partnership to become International Board Certified Lactation Consultants.
- Work with WIC, Outpatient Department, OB inpatient to improve and evaluate processes for BFHI education.
BFHI Activity provided by PHN
Data from Hopi Health Care Center audits 2014
Questions?