

American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health: Collaboration for Healing



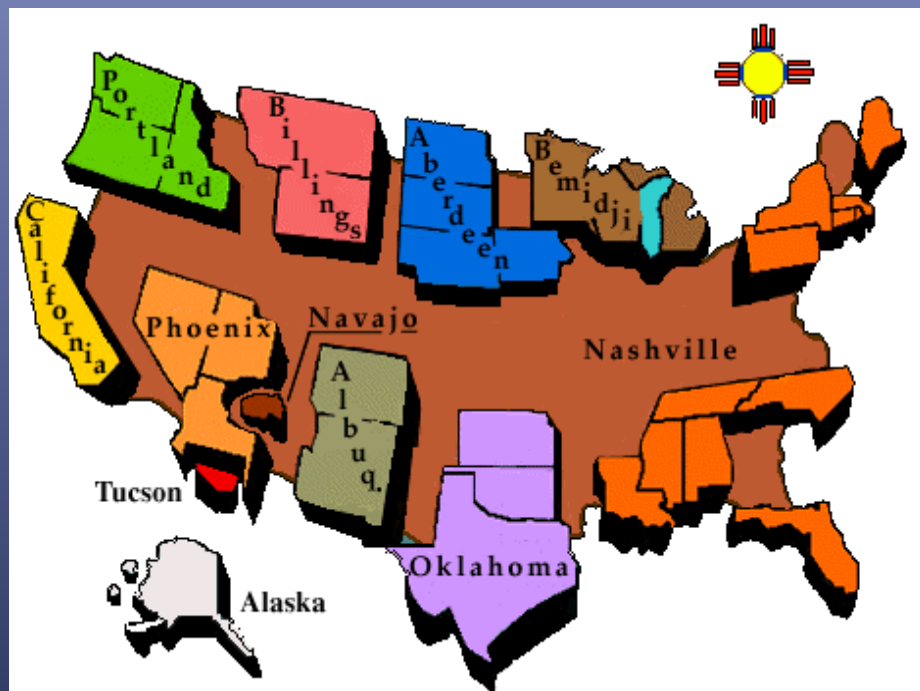
Rose Weahkee, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Behavioral Health
Indian Health Service

Native American Heritage Month Webinar Event

November 30, 2011



Indian Health Service (IHS) Mission

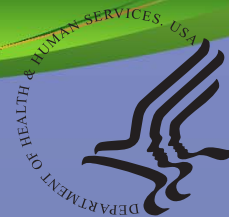


- The Mission, in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native people, is to raise their physical, mental, social and spiritual health to the highest level.



IHS Overview

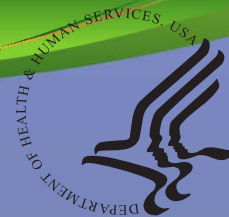
- Provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 2 million American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people.
- Serves members of 565 Federally recognized Tribes.



IHS Priorities

- To renew and strengthen our partnership with Tribes
- To reform the IHS
- To improve the quality of and access to care
- To make all our work accountable, transparent, fair and inclusive



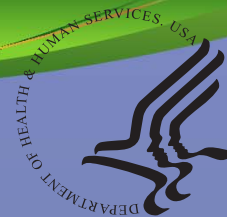


Indian Health Care Systems

	IHS	Tribal
Hospitals	28	17
Health Centers	63	263
Alaska Village Clinics	N/A	166
Health Stations	31	92



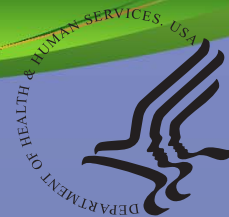
The IHS also supports 34 urban clinics across the nation.



Changing Indian Health System

- Transition continues from Federal to Tribal management of behavioral health services:
- Over 54% of Mental Health Services
- Over 84% of Substance Abuse Services
Are Tribally operated.





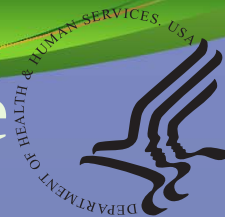
IHS Behavioral Health Service Evolution

Evolving from:

- primarily direct-service
- to direct-service and direct-service support for the Indian Health System
 - Promoting and supporting local and community direct service programs
 - Providing national network support and technical assistance
 - Convening and supporting collaboration networks
 - Advocacy, oversight, and inherent Federal functions



National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health (NTAC)

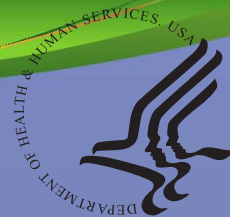


The IHS National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health embodies all of the IHS priorities:

- Elected Tribal officials from each IHS Area provide recommendations and advice on the range of behavioral health issues in Indian Country
- NTAC is the principal Tribal advisory group for all behavioral health services to the Director
- Together endorse community developed and delivered programs
- Together develop innovative funding mechanisms



National Behavioral Health Work Group (BHWG)



The IHS National Behavioral Health Work Group works very closely with the NTAC to provide collaborative links between the professional community and national Tribal leadership:

- National technical advisory group to the NTAC and the IHS Division of Behavioral Health
- Comprised of mental health professionals from across the country
- Strengthen partnerships
- Improve quality and access to care
- Direct collaboration across Tribal and Federal behavioral health system

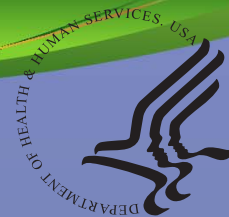


IHS and NTAC

- Consultation and collaboration on the development of the 5-Year National Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Strategic Plans and Briefing Book
 - The strategic plans identify priorities, goals, and strategic action steps to further develop the system of care and to better address behavioral health concerns in Indian Country
 - The Briefing Book offers an introduction and historical background on behavioral health issues for Tribal leaders
 - <http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Behavioral/>



What is the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI)?



The MSPI is a demonstration pilot program providing funding to 127 innovative Tribal, Tribal organizations, Federally-Operated, and Urban Indian health programs to provide methamphetamine and/or suicide prevention and treatment services.



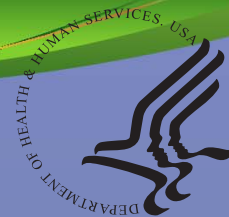
Year One Activities

Of those MSPI programs who submitted Year 1 Progress Reports (September 2009-August, 2010) a total of 289,066 persons have been served through both prevention and treatment activities. Prevention activities include, but are not limited to:

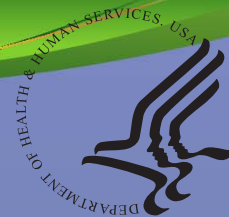
- Evidence-based practice training
- Knowledge dissemination
- Development of public service announcements and publications
- Coalition development
- Crisis hotline enhancement



What is the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative (DVPI)?



A nationally-coordinated demonstration program funding 65 innovative Tribal, Tribal organizations, Federally-Operated, and Urban Indian health programs aimed at addressing domestic violence (DV), sexual assault (SA), and family violence within American Indian and Alaska Native communities.



Preliminary Findings

August 2010 – January 2011

- Over 220 project-affiliated positions created
- 21 interdisciplinary SARTs
- Over 2,100 clients served
 - 1,602 received DV services
 - 177 received SA services
 - 395 received both DV/SA services



*56/65 programs reported data



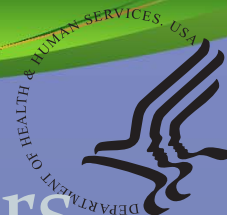
Services Provided

- Over 9,100 patients screened for DV
- Over 3,300 referrals made for DV/SA services, culturally-based services, & clinical behavioral health services
- Over 140 individuals received shelter services.
- 48 adult and 18 child Sexual Assault Forensic Examination kits were completed and submitted to Federal, State, and Tribal law enforcement



MSPI and DVPI

- Together, MSPI and DVPI represent innovative partnerships with IHS to deliver services **by and for the communities themselves**, with a national support network for ongoing program development and evaluation.
- Both are made possible by the ongoing NTAC and IHS collaboration.



IHS and National Health Partners

- Partnership examples include:
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 - Department of Interior (DOI)
 - Department of Justice (DOJ)



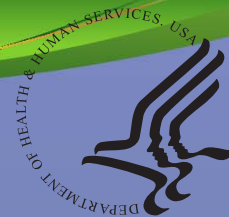
IHS and DOI

“We are very concerned by the ongoing tragedy of suicide in Indian Country,” said IHS Director Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H. “We know the consequences of suicide are devastating to our families and Tribal communities.”

“We have heard the pleas of Tribal leaders for coordinated prevention and intervention efforts to address these tragic events, particularly among our youth,” said DOI Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk.

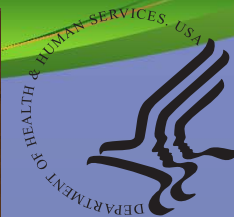
“These listening sessions will help us better support Tribal communities working to enhance the way young people feel connected to community and family and strengthening their ability to accept the challenges and gifts that life has to offer,” said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde.

- <http://www.ihs.gov/suicidepreventionsummit/alaska/>
- <http://www.ihs.gov/suicidepreventionsummit/>



IHS and DOJ

- IHS collaborations include partnerships with the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and Office for Victims of Crime to address the needs of sexual assault victims in Indian Country.
- The IHS in an interagency collaboration with the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, aims to increase resources for American Indian and Alaska Native victims of sexual assaults occurring in Tribal communities.
 - IHS Sexual Assault Policy established in March 2011
 - IHS and FBI National SANE/SART Coordinators

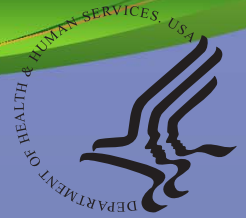


IHS and Tribal Nations are
working together to
eliminate health disparities
among American Indian and
Alaska Native people.



Take
a
look
at
the
Indian
Health
Service!

For More Information



General IHS Information:

www.ihs.gov

Rose Weahkee, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Behavioral Health
Indian Health Service
801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 300
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: (301) 443-2038
Email address: Rose.Weahkee@ihs.gov

