

**Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)  
Governor's Tribal Leaders Roundtable Update Report  
6/19/08**

**Division of Public Health Services**

**Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control**

**Arizona Diabetes Program**

**Goal:** To improve diabetes self-management skills

**Action**

- Provided 88 English Diabetes Self-Management Toolkits and 66 Spanish Toolkits to the Tohono O'odham Nation's Department of Health Services/HOPP for patients in their diabetes education classes.
- Provided Diabetes Self-Management Toolkits to organizations to distribute with education at the Cultural Diversity Section of the American Diabetes Association's Diabetes Expo April 26, 2008. Organizations that distributed kits are Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., Native Health, Inc. and the Indian Health Services' Phoenix Indian Medical Center.

**Outcome:** Distributed over 150 diabetes self-management toolkits to Native Americans, improving care and reducing the need for expensive urgent care treatments

**Upcoming Activities:**

- The Diabetes Program Manager will present to the Arizona Diabetes Coalition at the June 3-4, 2008 Diabetes Today Training in Tucson, AZ. This training on coalition building is offered by the Association of American Indian Physicians Diabetes Program.

**Comprehensive Cancer Program**

**Goal:** To improve cancer diagnosis and treatment programs

**Action**

- The utilization review nurse from Fort Defiance has joined the Arizona Cancer Coalition and subsequently, due to her efforts, four more individuals from Fort Defiance have joined the coalition.
- The Arizona Cancer Control Program director participated in the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc, Southwest American Indian Collaborative Network Steering Committee meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> and the Educational Core Committee meeting held in March.

- In February, the Arizona Cancer Control Program Director presented a slide presentation on Arizona's Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan to the Tohono O'odham Nation's Cancer Planning meeting in Sells.

**Outcome:** More information now available for Tribal communities, enhanced awareness leads to early detection and prevention

### **Well Woman HealthCheck Program (WWHP):**

**Goal:** To improve diagnosis and primary healthcare services for women

#### **Action**

- An evaluation report on Proposition 303 funding awarded to the WWHP for the purposes of reducing the burden of breast cancer in Arizona has been completed. The WWHP continues the partnership with Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) on this pilot project.
- The Gila River Health Care Corporation kicked off its WWHP program at the Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the first tribal program to implement the WWHP through state funding.

**Outcome:** The PIMC evaluation, done through the University of Arizona, identified six key themes emerging from interviews done with PIMC and WWHP staff. The themes are: greater accountability through the reimbursement of services, the importance of relationships and trust, the importance of people and teamwork, the importance of framing, the necessity to commit resources and exercise patience, and the ability of the process to provide an impetus to examine existing systems. The evaluation team concluded that these themes should be considered as the WWHP is introduced to new sites.

#### **Upcoming activities/plans:**

- The WWHP will be participating in a training with partners from all the breast and cervical cancer programs within Arizona to discuss program successes, challenges, and leveraging resources to reach American Indian women throughout Arizona. Partners include, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, Hopi and Navajo breast and cervical cancer programs, Indian Health Services, Phoenix Indian Medical Center, and Gila River. The training is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> in Flagstaff.
- The WWHP is submitting a Regional Project Proposal to the American Cancer Society on behalf of regional partners with a goal of reducing structural barriers for low-income, uninsured and underinsured women to increase mammography screening rates. The program held a statewide call to gather partner input and feedback for the proposal. The proposal will seek \$250,000 to provide mammography screening to approximately 1,075 women with a focus on health disparities. Both Navajo and Hopi breast and cervical cancer programs were consulted and have identified a

need for additional mobile mammography services based on increased demand, waiting lists, and inadequate funding. If awarded, the project will provide a mobile mammography unit to both programs quarterly to help address this need.

### **Bureau of USDA Nutrition Program**

**Goal:** To ensure access to nutritious food, promote healthier eating habits and lifestyles, and improve nutrition assistance program management and customer service for participants served by USDA nutrition assistance programs.

**Action:**

- The ADHS Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) worked with representatives from Tribal Organizations, County Health Departments, Community Health Centers, the Medical Community, and Health Organizations to develop a Five (5) Year Breastfeeding Strategic Plan. The plan focuses its activities on Clients, Families, Staff, Community, and Public Awareness. All activities will include Tribal and community partners.
- The ADHS WIC Program has a contract with the Cocopah Indian Tribe to serve 200 tribal members monthly.
- The Arizona Nutrition Network is reviewing applications from local projects to provide FY 2009 Food Stamp Nutrition Education services throughout Arizona. Several local projects serving primarily American Indians have submitted applications. Selection of approved projects for the coming year will be completed by July.

**Outcomes:** Anticipated improvement in nutritional habits among Tribal residents. Last year, more than 10,000 American Indians participated in Food Stamp Nutrition Education activities provided by local projects of the Arizona Nutrition Network. Network local projects serving primarily American Indians included: Ha:san Preparatory and Leadership School, Iina Coalition, Native American Community Health Center, Navajo Nation Area Agency on Aging, and White Mountain Apache Tribe.

**Upcoming activities/plans:**

- The Arizona WIC Program, in coordination with the Navajo Nation and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., are providing interactive pre-authorization training sessions during June and July 2008.
- The Arizona WIC Program is also hosting a food package partners meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at the Phoenix Airport Marriott. The Navajo Nation WIC Program and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. have been invited to participate and invite their partners. This meeting is designed to solicit input and support from all interested WIC stakeholders in an effort to maximize the benefits of the new changes.

## **Bureau of Tobacco Education and Prevention (BTEP)**

**Goal:** To support local projects in tribal communities in planning and implementing tobacco education and prevention programs.

### **Action:**

- In recognition of the uniqueness of tribes and urban American Indian population, BTEP will be using an 8 objectives guide in working with Arizona tribes as part of the BTEP statewide strategic plan.
- BTEP will be extending the current contract with ITCA for the period July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008 to ensure programs remain active until the process for the Request For Grant Applications (RFGA) for fiscal year 2009 has been completed. The ITCA contract includes funding which is subcontracted to eight tribal nations and three urban Indian centers.
- BTEP participated in the following meetings with tribal programs: (1) Site visits to five of the tribal and two of the urban Indian tobacco programs in February and March, (2) Planning for 2009 National Conference on Health or Tobacco (NCTOH) on February 27, 2008, (3) ITCA executive staff on March 20, 2008, (4) Tribal tobacco programs on March 21, 2008 at ITCA, (5) White Mountain Apache Tribe on April 15, 2008, (6) Gila River Indian Community on March 19, 2008 and April 17, 2008, and (8) Native Americans for Community Action, Inc. (NACA) on April 24, 2008

**Outcome:** Anticipated decrease in the number of tribal members who begin using tobacco products and an increase in the number of cessation efforts. BTEP will be providing technical assistance to tribal tobacco programs in developing evaluation tools to gauge the success of their programs' education and prevention efforts.

### **Upcoming activities/plans:**

- On June 10, 2008, BTEP staff and the ADHS Native American Liaison will be meeting with the Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Health to begin discussions on establishing a partnership between ADHS and Navajo Nation.
- BTEP and ITCA will be conducting site visits in early July 2008 to provide technical assistance to each tribal program on developing an action plan for the three-month extension period.

## **Bureau of Women & Children's Health (BWCH)**

### **Injury Prevention Program**

**Goal:** To increase community child passenger safety technicians and support infrastructure

**Action**

- The Program Director participating in the Safe Native American Passengers curriculum update committee sponsored by Indian Health Service. She was on the initial workgroup to create a national one day training for tribal communities on child passenger safety.
- Technical manuals were provided to each tribe in Arizona on how to use LATCH-lower anchors and tethers for children.
- The Program Director co-taught a child passenger safety course in Pinetop, Arizona, held on May 13-17, 2008. Thirteen of the 14 participants represented the White River, Navajo and Zuni tribal communities.

**Upcoming activities/plans:**

- Potentially fund 10 members of the Hopi tribe to attend the child passenger safety training in June using SAFE Kids funds.

**Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

**Goal:** To reduce unplanned teen pregnancy within the Tribes of Arizona

**Action:**

- The Program renewed its contract with the Intertribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) to provide teen pregnancy prevention and parent education to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, Tohono O'Odham Nation (TON) – San Lucy District and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Apache Nation. The ITCA contract was originally designed to target only the San Lucy District of the TON. Because of the parent satisfaction with “Can We Talk” (word of mouth from parent to parent) the group has now been asked by several communities to present “Can We Talk” parent education classes throughout the lands of TON.
- In April a two day joint training for Teen Out Reach Program (TOP) providers was conducted with ITCA and Maricopa County.
- In March the Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health supported a joint training for “Can We Talk” trainers.
- The Program began providing the TOP to Ak-Chin youth via partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services – Behavioral Health Services.

**Outcomes:**

- 60 plus youth participated in ongoing tribal TOP programming this quarter
- 100 plus parents participated in “Can We Talk” training this quarter

**Health Start Program**

**Goal:** To increase prenatal care services to pregnant women, reduce incidence of low birth weight births, reduce incidence of children receiving age appropriate immunizations and increase educational outreach to families.

**Action**

- The Program is implementing the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) subcontract through the Northrop Grumman Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) FASD Center for Excellence. The FASD project involves two Health Start contractor sites that serve Native American tribes. The sites are Native American Community Health Center in Phoenix and Northland Community Health Center in Flagstaff. The Program has also been coordinating with the Statewide FASD Task Force which includes the Navajo Nation. Two representatives from the Navajo Nation are also participating on the FASD subcontract subcommittee which is overseeing the FASD project.

**Upcoming Activities/Plans**

- The FASD Screening and Brief Intervention Training is scheduled to be provided on July 1, 2008 in Phoenix. The training will provide direction and support to the two sites to integrate FASD prevention, screening diagnosis and brief intervention into their existing Health Start Program that reach urban and rural Native American women in Maricopa and Coconino Counties.

**Domestic Violence Program**

**Goal:** To increase public understanding of domestic violence and its impact on family and individual health.

**Action:**

- Ama Doo Alchini Bighan, Inc. (ADABI) a domestic violence service provider and Program contractor located in Chinle, Arizona, participated in the Navajo Nation Program for Self Reliance “Fatherhood Initiative Conference”.

**Outcome:**

- Evaluations of the conference indicated the domestic violence presentation by ADABI to be the highest rated breakout session.

**Bureau of Epidemiology & Disease Control**

**Office of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis C Services**

**Goal:** To reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) among Arizona’s Native American population, to strive for the elimination of sexual

health disparities among Native Americans, and to work collaboratively with tribal, IHS, and county partners to respond quickly and appropriately to STD outbreaks on tribal nations.

**Action:**

- The Program hosted the Arizona STD Statewide Meeting held on April 25, 2008. At the meeting, tribal representatives from the Navajo, Tohono O'odham, and White River Apache Nations attended the meeting, as well as several IHS staff from across the state. Each Nation had an opportunity to update the meeting attendees on STD work occurring on their respective Nation and the barriers affecting STD prevention and control on their Tribal lands. The ADHS Native American Liaison attended the meeting and offered his perspective on the needs and concerns of Native Americans in Arizona. The ADHS STD Control staff members provided an update on surveillance and the impact/burden of STD among Native Americans in Arizona. Moreover, the ADHS STD Control Program staff offered ongoing technical assistance, health promotion/STD prevention resources, and clinical updates for tribal and IHS representatives.
- The Program hosted a site visit on April 9, 2008, from 12 CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention staff whom were conducting a site visit to New Mexico and Arizona. The group visited the Navajo and Tohono O'odham Nations during their visit. The emphasis of the visit was to learn about the unique needs of medically underserved populations in rural settings. Also, the group wanted to learn more about HIV/AIDS, STD, viral hepatitis, and TB Prevention programs in New Mexico and Arizona and wanted to conduct an assessment of technical assistance provided by the CDC and those activities in which CDC has partnered with tribal communities.
- ADHS STD Control staff, an epidemiologist and a communicable disease investigator, assisted the Gila River Indian Community Department of Health and Human Services staff with syphilis screening in early April 2008.
- ADHS STD Control Program Public Health Advisor and Communicable Disease Investigator continued to meet with Tohono O'odham Nation Department of Health and Human Services and IHS Sells Service Unit to facilitate syphilis outbreak response. The group approved two community screening events as well as additional screening on TO Nation high schools.
- ADHS STD Control Program Epidemiologist and TO Nation CHR supervisor, presented two posters on the TO Nation syphilis outbreak at the national STD conference held on March 10-13, 2008. The posters were entitled: *Describing a Syphilis Outbreak on a Rural Arizona American Indian Reservation* and *Managing a Syphilis Outbreak on a Rural Southwestern American Indian Reservation*.

**Arizona STD Rates by Race/Ethnicity  
2002 and 2007  
Per 100,000 Population**

**Chlamydia**

	(2002)	(2007)
Black	736.1	714.9
Native Americans	714.1	634.5
Hispanic	471.1	342.0
White	116.6	141.3
Asian	109.0	90.1

**Gonorrhea**

	(2002)	(2007)
Black	441.4	344.4
Native Americans	109.6	93.9
Hispanic	103.6	59.8
White	31.2	32.9
Asian	12.3	13.0

**Primary & Secondary Syphilis**

	(2002)	(2007)
Black	22.4	11.0
Native Americans	5.9	8.9
Hispanic	5.1	3.6
White	1.7	0.0
Asian	.9	0.0

**Upcoming activities:**

- ADHS STD Control Program staff will meet with TO Nation Department of Health and Human Services, Maricopa County, and IHS on May 22, 2008 to discuss increasing STD screening at the San Lucy Health Clinic, especially among adolescents
- A pre-meeting session focusing on STD prevention, intervention, and control among Native Americans in the southwest and nationally will be held prior to the National Coalition of STD Directors Annual Meeting scheduled for October 21-25, 2008 in Mesa, AZ. The ADHS STD Control Program Manger will coordinate with the ADHS Native American Liaison on meeting content, speakers, and break out sessions. Special emphasis will be placed on Native American health issues during the entire meeting, even after the pre-meeting sessions.

## **Office of Environment Health**

**Goal:** To reduce environmental and toxic exposures on tribal lands

**Action:**

- A report was issued titled “Public Health Evaluation for the Intended Use of Paulson Gaming Chips”. The ADHS reviewed and analyzed several data sources to determine whether Paulson gaming chips pose a potential public health threat due to lead exposure. The report can be viewed at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/invsurv/lead/pdf/Paulson4.1.08HealthConsultation.pdf>. It was concluded that based on available information, there appears to be no lead associated public health hazard from handling Paulson gaming chips when they are used by adult casino patrons and employees as intended in a casino.

## **Office of Infectious Disease Services**

**Goal:** To ensure Tribal support and involvement in infectious disease prevention and control, including disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, case management and mitigation measures; outreach and education; through technical guidance and financial and other support.

**Action:**

- The Navajo Nation Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program, Indian Health Services (IHS), and ADHS have agreed to hold bi-monthly conference calls beginning the month of June to discuss TB patients currently managed by the program. These calls will involve IHS TB Medical Officers, Public Health Nurses, TB Coordinators, and TB Technicians.
- The ADHS TB Control Program is in the process of renewing the 5-year Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) contracts between the Navajo Nation and Tohono O’Odham Nation Health Departments for state support funding. These IGA contracts provide supplemental funding to these tribes for TB prevention and control activities.
- The ADHS Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Investigations Program has been interfacing with the Navajo Nation on the follow-up of several suspect measles cases. Also, a suspect measles case traveled to the Gila River Indian Community. No confirmed cases have yet been identified in any tribal jurisdiction. A large measles outbreak involving 22 confirmed cases in Pima and Pinal counties is ongoing.
- Three human cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) have been reported in the White Mountains area, including one fatal case in an adult Native American male. A coordinated response with San Carlos Tribe, Indian Health Services, Gila County, Graham County, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and ADHS was performed. The response included pesticide applications to approximately 1,000 homes, putting

flea/tick collars & sprays on dogs, tick trapping/assessments done at 10 home-sites (results pending) and community education. General observations were that there has been an increase in severely tick-infested dogs. A meeting with White Mountain Apache tribal representatives and tick assessments are ongoing this week. ADHS will continue to support mitigation and prevention efforts in reducing risk for residents of reservations in the White Mountains.

**Outcomes:**

- Improved patient monitoring, especially between jurisdictions, improved completion of treatment and case management, and more efficient and effective control of TB disease.
- The tribal IGA's are expected to be in place by July 1, 2008.
- Prevention of measles spread to Tribal residents and the rest of the state.
- Reducing the risk of Rocky Mountain spotted fever for residents of reservations in the White Mountains and mitigating a mounting environmental and public health problem.

## **Division of Behavioral Health Services**

### **Bureau of Compliance – Tribal Contract Administrator**

**Goal** – To facilitate and monitor the performance of the Tribal Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHAs) and the Tribal Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs).

**Action**

- Quarterly meetings were held with the Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHAs), Gila River on March 18, 2008, Pascua Yaqui on March 25, 2008, and White Mountain Apache on April 3, 2008 to discuss performance and coordinative topics.
- On-going technical assistance and training was provided to the White Mountain Apache TRBHA as they continued their service and network development.
- The Office of Program Operations conducted training to the Navajo Nation Behavioral Health staff on April 23-24, 2008 on the AHCCCS information system, Prepaid Medical Management Information System (PMMIS) and the ADHS/DBHS information system, Client Information System (CIS).

**Outcomes**

- Effectively operating TRBHA's providing much needed behavioral health services to Native American clients.

**Upcoming activities/plans**

- ADHS/DBHS will also be developing an Implementation Plan with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) at their request to begin preparation for movement to the provision of Case Management services. Previously

CRIT has been providing only subvention – prevention services. Planning efforts will begin in August 2008.

- ADHS is planning in August or September in conjunction with ITCA a training conference for the tribes and the Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities on Arizona State Hospital involuntary commitment of Native Americans.
- ADHS/DBHS will be developing an Implementation Plan with the Navajo Nation at their request to begin preparation for movement to provision of comprehensive behavioral health services as a TRBHA in 2009. A planning meeting is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> with the Navajo Nation.
- White Mountain Apache TRBHA will be participating in its first Administrative Review in 2008. Orientation is being provided to the TRBHA on the processes and mechanics of the Administrative Review.

### **Office of Prevention Services**

**Goal:**To prevent substance abuse, suicide and teen pregnancy.

**Action:**

- NRBHA continues to facilitate the Native American Suicide Prevention Coalition. This involves membership of most tribes in Arizona.
- Pascua Yaqui has received \$150,000 in new funds from Magellan to implement prevention services in Guadalupe and Tucson. They will be hiring two staff. One person will be hired for each community.
- Due to legislative cuts in teen pregnancy prevention funds, the Gila River Indian Community had to end two teen pregnancy prevention programs on May 16, 2008.

**Outcome**

- Better prepared RBHA and TRBHA staff to address substance abuse, suicide, and teen pregnancy among the Native American populations.

**Upcoming activities/plans:**

- The Native American Suicide Prevention Coalition is planning the MBrace Life Summit for fall of 2008.
- ADHS will be conducting training for Navajo Nation on Skills for Effective Prevention and Cultural Competency in the last week of May, 2008.
- ADHS has applied for a grant from SAMHSA targeting suicide prevention in Native American populations in Arizona. Navajo Nation was a direct collaborator on this grant.
- The Office of Clinical Practice Improvement will apply CA-SIG Grant funding to support workforce development training on the White Bison model, *Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth*. This initiative will provide a total of four 3-day trainings for 80 adult tribal community members and clinical staff from the Cenpatico and NARBHA RBHA networks. The trainings will take place in four separate geographical regions: North

central Arizona/Hopi Indian Tribe, Northwestern Arizona/Hualapai Indian Tribe, Yuma/Cocopah Indian Tribe and Globe/San Carlos Apache Tribe. The trainings will support each RBHA's System of Care objective to disseminate culturally appropriate practices across Tribal Communities. The focus of the trainings will be to help participants learn underlying issues behind alcohol and drug use/abuse and also to understand the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual foundations that lead Native American youth to initiate alcohol and drug use.

### **Office of Cultural Competency**

**Goal:** To improve the behavioral health of Native Americans

#### **Action**

- ADHS applied for a grant from SAMHSA targeting suicide prevention in Native American populations in Arizona.

#### **Outcome**

- TRBHA and RBHA staff trained in Cultural Competency for improved service delivery to clients and patients.

#### **Upcoming activities/plans**

- Explore the use of Native American radio media to increase education and awareness of behavioral health services and behavioral health issues.
- Development of Incentives for Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA's) to increase penetration of enrollment of special populations (includes Native Americans). Baseline will be developed this year and incentives start next year.
- Enhanced training of Native American culture for RBHA/providers.
- ADHS will be conducting training for Navajo Nation staff on Skills for Effective Prevention and Cultural Competency the last week of May, 2008
- DBHS Diversity report to be developed this year to report on annual outcomes for Native Americans, Latino, African American and Asian Pacific Islander.

## **Arizona State Hospital**

**Goal:** Provide mental health in-patient hospital services.

#### **Action:**

- Between February 1, 2008 and May 30, 2008 there were 5 Native American patients admitted and a total of eighteen (18) patients treated at the Arizona State Hospital from Arizona tribal communities. Fourteen (14) of the patients are male and four (4) are female. Two (2) of the eighteen tribal members treated were adolescents on the Adolescent Treatment

Unit, three (3) are adults in the Forensic Hospital as “Guilty Except Insane” (GEI), and two (2) as “Restoration to Competency”. The remaining 11 patients were admitted under Court Order Treatment.

**Outcome:**

- Arizona State Hospital continues to work closely with the tribal communities for timely admissions of tribal members referred for appropriate care and treatment.