



## *Office of the Director*

150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 500  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3247  
(602) 542-1025  
(602) 542-1062 FAX  
Internet: [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)

JANICE K. BREWER, GOVERNOR  
WILL HUMBLE, DIRECTOR

### **Tribal Activities Report October 01, 2009 – February 28, 2010**

**Overview:** Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) services are comprised of three main service areas: behavioral health services including oversight of the Arizona State Hospital (ASH), public health services and medical facilities licensing.

**Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS):** DBHS provides Medicaid and state funded behavioral health services to eligible clients through managed care contracts with Regional and Tribal Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs/TRBHAs). DBHS also provides a system of care for children up to age 21 who have special health care needs through the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN). Services are provided through OCSHCN's Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS) Program. The Arizona State Hospital (ASH) provides psychiatric treatment for the most seriously mentally ill civil, adolescent and forensic court ordered patients.

**Project Results and Accomplishments:** Working with a statewide Planning Committee DBHS conducted a very successful Forum focusing on behavioral health services for Arizona American Indian tribes. The forum was held on 2/11-12/10. The RBHA Tribal Liaisons continued working with tribes in their geographical service areas identifying behavioral health service needs, finalizing agreements granting approval for on reservation services, facilitating AHCCCS provider registrations and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) waiver (in lieu of state licensing) and advocating patient navigation through the RBHA behavioral health systems. DBHS in partnership with the Intertribal Council of Arizona, the Advisory Council on Indian Health Care, and the RBHAs/TRBHAs collaborated to conduct nine training sessions throughout the state focusing on the Involuntary Commitment processes as outline in ARS 12-136 for American Indian residing on reservation lands. 1,272 Native American children were enrolled in the OCSHCN CRS Program. Eighteen Native American patients were treated at the ASH with 13 still in the hospital (7 are forensic and 6 are civil).

**Current Projects:** RBHA contract proposals for other than Maricopa County are currently being evaluated with new contracts anticipated to be effective July 01, 2010. The RFP for these new RBHA contracts require the hiring of a Tribal Liaison and provides more clarity in the requirements for working with Indian tribes. Negotiations are in process with the Tuba City Health Care Corporation to provide services for CRS members via telemedicine. OCSHCN is in the process of conducting a comprehensive statewide five-year needs assessment as a requirement of the federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant.

**Division of Public Health Services (DPHS):** DPHS is comprised of two service lines, preparedness and prevention. Preparedness programs assist communities in planning for and responding to Public Health emergencies. Prevention programs assist communities in enhancing the health and wellness of community members.

**Project Results and Accomplishments (Preparedness):** H1N1 vaccines were distributed to IHS and tribal facilities on a priority basis. Ten percent of all H1N1 vaccines shipped to the state from federal supplies were allocated for tribal communities. Funding support was provided in the development of a tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Strategic Plan 2010-2013. This

plan is posted on the ADHS Native American web site. In collaboration with PIMC, staff participated in a seminar designed to educate tribal health representatives about the high rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) among Native American populations to stimulate awareness of the need to enhance prevention efforts. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) prevention and control activities included training and technical assistance being provided to the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), the White Mountain Apache Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe and Colorado River Indian Tribes. Laboratory services provided for Native American related testing services included rabies, salmonella culture, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Hantavirus, TB culture, Novel Influenza A H1N1 2009 testing and newborn screening. Cancer Registry data linkage was conducted with the Hopi and Navajo tribes. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance program technical assistance was provided to the Navajo Nation. Assistance was provided to the Tohono O'odham Nation in development of a health report for the tribe.

**Project Results and Accomplishments (Prevention)** Outreach efforts were conducted to promote Native American Community Development Program primary care services to American Indian communities. Assistance was provided to the Fort Defiance IHS Hospital on compliance with the National Health Service Corps as they transition to 638 tribal statuses. Tobacco prevention surveys were completed for five tribal communities. Assistance was provided in the development of a comprehensive cancer prevention and control plan for the Tohono O'odham Nation. Staff hosted the Navajo Nation WIC Program database and provided technical assistance to their program staff in the use of ADHS' Arizona in Motion (AIM) application for one year. Injury prevention information and statistics were provided to requesting tribes and ITCA. Collaboration continued with Navajo County on car seat safety course for Native American families. Contractual relationship continued with ITCA and the Navajo Nation on Teen Pregnancy and with Native Health for Health Start/Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Staff held a strategic planning meeting to address dental work force issues on Tribal lands. Contractual relationships continued with a Navajo Nation provider in Chinle for Family Violence Prevention Services.

**Current Projects: (Preparedness)** Technical assistance is being provided to the GRIC to set-up a RMSF surveillance activity in March and April to ascertain the current distribution of RMSF on GRIC land. At present, over 16 RMSF cases have met case definition within the White Mountains region – all associated within Tribal Lands. Cancer data is being provided to the GRIC to assist in the tribal cancer prevention efforts.

**Current Project: (Prevention)** Efforts continue to update all health professional shortage designation scores for IHS facilities and tribal populations in Arizona. Assistance is being provided to the PIMC to support successful breast and cervical cancer contract implementation. Staff support is being provided in the planning for the AZ Primary Care Workshop for American Indian Communities tentatively scheduled for June 24, 2010. Technical assistance continues to be provided to five tribal nations in assessing their capacity to provide culturally relevant, evidence tobacco education and prevention based services. Technical assistance continues to be provided to the Navajo Nation WIC Program.

**Division of Licensing Services (DLS):** This division provides licensing regulation and oversight for behavioral health, child care, long term care, and medical facilities.

**Project Results and Accomplishments:** A courtesy compliance survey for behavioral health services was conducted on the Tohono O'odham Nation per the request of the Nation. Staff participated in discussions with RBHA and AHCCCS staff in coordinating the processing of tribal CMS waivers for the provision of behavioral health services on reservations. Staff also participated in meetings with Tuba City Health Care Corporation representatives concerning state licensing for an off reservation clinic. Staff worked with Sage Memorial Hospital in obtaining state licensure.

**Current Projects:** Working with AHCCCS on tribal CMS waivers and provider registration to provide for and allow for Medicaid reimbursement for on-reservation behavioral health services.

