



**TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND ACTIVITIES ANNUAL REPORT**

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Order 2006-14 – Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes

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## **NATIVE AMERICAN LIAISON**

The Department employs a full time Native American Liaison (NAL) who reports directly to the Department Director. Highlighted activities of the NAL include: 1) Chairing a Multi-Agency Planning Committee comprised of tribal, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), Indian Health Service (IHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) representatives in the sponsorship of a statewide Tribal Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) meeting held on 11/09/12 at Camp Verde on the Yavapai-Apache Nation, 2) Attending 10 meetings of the Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care and 5 meetings of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs representing the Department Director, and 3) Coordinating 4 quarterly ADHS-IHS Directors' meetings. Reports of ADHS tribal activities are posted on the ADHS Native American Web Site at <http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/tribal/>.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

The Division of Behavioral Health Services provides Medicaid and state funded behavioral health services to eligible persons through managed care contracts with Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) and Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHAs). By contract requirement each RBHA has on staff a Tribal Liaison. Division staff worked with a tribal Work Group on allocation methodology for two prevention and treatment block grants in follow up to recommendations made at a January 2012 Behavioral Health Tribal Consultation Meeting. The Division employs a full time Tribal Contract Administrator.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS SERVICES**

Bureau of Epidemiology & Disease Control Services: The Arizona Immunization Program Office staff consulted with tribal health programs from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), the Fort Yuma–Quechan Indian Tribe, and the Navajo Nation regarding specific methods of electronic immunization data exchange with the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS).

The Office of Infectious Disease Services staff participated in: 1) Monthly RMSF coalition conference calls with the San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT), the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) and the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON), 2) An on-going CDC sponsored RMSF prevention demonstration project (Rodeo Pilot) with the SCAT, 3) The Statewide Arizona Tribal/IHS/ADHS/CDC RMSF Meeting held on 11/09/12, and 4) Quarterly Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Tribal Epidemiology subcommittee conference calls. Staff assisted the Navajo Tribal Epidemiology Center in an investigation of an outbreak of invasive group A Streptococcus. Staff provided de-identified communicable disease data to the ITCA Tribal Epidemiology Center to assist in developing community health profiles.

The Office of Environmental Health SunWise Skin Cancer Prevention School Program provided sun safety curriculum to 7 Arizona tribes, gave presentations at the GRIC Medical Center, and assisted representatives from the Apache and Navajo tribes with skin cancer data.

The Office of Disease Integration and Services TB Control Program staff: 1) Coordinated two ongoing contracts with the Navajo Nation to supplement their TB prevention and control activities, 2) Participated in monthly conference calls with the Navajo Nation and the New Mexico Department of Health to review active TB cases and investigations, and 3) Collaborated with the SCAT, GRIC and WMAT for TB prevention and control activities. Through Ryan White Part B Program funding the Office provided the Navajo AIDS Network with \$83,609 in funding for the grant year of July 2012 through June 2013. The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Control Program conducted quarterly syphilis prevention and control conference calls with the Navajo Nation, collaborated with PIMC and ITCA on a Community Based Assessment Training and development of a task force to identify education and training plans for Native American community partners.

Bureau of Public Health Emergency Preparedness: The Bureau continued its IGA contract agreements with 12 tribes and the Navajo and Phoenix IHS Area Offices for public health emergency preparedness services. Supported by the Arizona Tribal Executive Committee (AzTEC), the Bureau sponsored a project by Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) to visit all Arizona Tribes with the purpose of identifying challenges and opportunities during shelter operations for the functional and access needs population within tribal communities.

The Bureau continued its contracted Tribal Liaison Services with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (FMIT) where the FMIT Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff provides PHEP training and technical assistance services to all participating tribes in the PHEP program. The contracted staff: 1) Arranged regular meetings between the Bureau and the tribes to negotiate annual distribution formulas and deliverables, and 2) Served in the capacity of AzTEC Board Chairman and Secretary and as such arranged AzTEC monthly meetings to provide consistent and ongoing information exchange and mutual understanding between the Bureau and participating tribes.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System: Staff working with stakeholder representatives from tribes, ITCA, and IHS developed a descriptive report on Arizona American Indian Traumatic Injuries This report is a detailed analysis on the implications that traumatic injury has on the American Indian community in Arizona. The report documents among other statistics that Arizona American Indians have a higher trauma rate than all other racial groups of 871 per 100,000 which is almost double the rate for other racial groups. The data was presented as a resource for the development of evidence-based interventions for improvement in the health and well-being of American Indian communities.

Bureau of State Laboratory Services: The Laboratory staff provided diagnostic testing for tribal communities in support of outbreak investigations and routine surveillance activities. Throughout FY13, staff supported ongoing investigation of RMSF on Arizona Indian

reservations. Staff participated on conference calls with IHS to discuss the scope of the investigation, testing submission requirements, algorithms for use in determining populations tested, and testing capacities at the laboratory. Newborn screening services for twenty-eight inherited metabolic and genetic disorders, with follow-up and educational outreach services, was provided to several Arizona tribes through a contract with the Phoenix Area IHS Colorado River Service Unit.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION SERVICES**

Bureau of Tobacco & Chronic Disease: Since its inception in 1994, the Arizona Diabetes Coalition (ADC) in partnership with ADHS has worked in promoting a State without diabetes. Tribal members of the ADC expressed interest to develop a working committee that addresses the needs of American Indians. With guidance from current partners, the ADC has offered technical assistance and consultation to leaders of this future workgroup.

Bureau of Women & Children's Health: The Office of Oral Health staff continued participation in the Arizona American Indian Oral Health Initiative to develop tribal specific oral health coalitions and a statewide Tribal Coalition. Staff participated in six regional tribal roundtables held throughout Arizona to inform tribal and urban Indian leaders and administrative staff about the coalition planning effort.

The Office of Children Health's Community Health and Prevention Intergovernmental Agreements with 7 county health departments include an emphasis on working with tribal nations. Navajo County Public Health Services District was asked by the WMAT to provide input and to sit in on their meetings to develop a car seat safety policy. Yavapai County Public Health Services was invited by the Yavapai-Apache Tribe to promote preconception health information within a tribal health fair. Coconino County Public Health Services District provided car seat checks, and car seats with training on Hualapai Hilltop in coordination with the Hualapai Tribe.

The Bureau's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation Program (MIECHV) supported the Family Spirit Home Visiting program, a home visiting program specifically tailored to the unique culture of Native Americans. The program has shown that families that participate in the program have increased parenting knowledge and involvement, decreased maternal depression, increased home safety, decreased emotional and behavioral problems of mothers and infants. The WMAT began seeing families in May 2013 with MIECHV funding and in May and June enrolled a total of 30 families.

The Bureau's Teen Pregnancy Prevention program staff worked with the Navajo Nation in preparation for the transfer their IGA contract from the Navajo Division of Health to the Navajo Division of Social Services, Self-Reliance Program. This transfer will offer new opportunities to build teen pregnancy prevention efforts for youth on the Navajo Nation.

Bureau of Nutrition & Physical Activity: In June and July 2013, the Bureau's Arizona WIC program provided two 2 day trainings regarding baby behaviors and assessment techniques to the Navajo Nation WIC staff. Staff from both programs worked jointly on the Health and

Nutrition Delivery Service (HANDS) computer application which will replace the existing WIC computer system in 2015. Both programs continued to work together to plan Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) activities. USDA has mandated that EBT be implemented in each WIC agency by the year 2020.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS**

Cancer Registry staff participated in the 6th Annual Arizona Conference for Enhancing Tribal BCCEDP Collaborations held on 8/7-8/12. A mid-year Tribal Collaborative Meeting was held on 3/11/13. Staff consulted with the Tucson IHS Area Office concerning cancer questions on the TON. Breast and Cervical cancer registry data linkage was conducted with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation on 4/08/13 and 4/10/13.

Birth Defects Monitoring Program staff in collaboration with tribal and IHS partners planned and conducted the first Arizona American Indian Maternal Child Wellness Forum on 11/29/12 held at Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Conference Center on the GRIC reservation. Topics included preconception & pregnancy health, managing and improving birth outcomes and prevention.

#### **LICENSING SERVICES**

The Division of Licensing Services provides licensing regulation and oversight for behavioral health, child care, long term care, and medical facilities. Staff worked with AHCCCS staff in coordinating clarification from CMS on their decision to require state licensing of non-IHS and non-Tribal 638 AHCCCS providers operating on Indian reservations.