



Maternal, Child, and Family Health and Wellness

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Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grantee Kickoff Meeting & Tribal Early Learning Communities Consortium



Mission



- The Indian Health Service (IHS) mission, in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native people, is to raise their physical, mental, social, and spiritual health to the highest level.



A Quick Look at the Indian Health Service



- A comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN).
 - Network of over 600 hospitals, clinics, health stations
 - IHS, tribal, urban Indian health programs
 - Clinical, public health, and community services
 - Serves members of 565 federally recognized Tribes.
 - FY 2010 appropriation = approximately \$4.05 billion.
 - IHS total staff consists of about 15,700 employees.
 - Clinical staff includes approximately 2,700 nurses, 900 physicians, 400 engineers, 600 pharmacists, 300 dentists, and 300 sanitarians.



IHS Priorities and Tribal Home Visiting (HV): A Natural Fit



Priority 1: Renew and strengthen our partnership with Tribes

- HV is a tribally-based initiative which IHS supports through policy, programs, and partnership

Priority 2: In the context of national health insurance reform, bring reform to the IHS

- Affordable Care Act supports HV and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act reauthorization
- HV part of reforming IHS approach to addressing health disparities

Priority 3: Improve the quality of and access to care.

- There is no better place to start than early childhood

Priority 4: Ensure that our work is transparent, accountable, fair, and inclusive

- Agency commitment to MCH early childhood as proportionately represents our population, disparities, and where we can make a difference.



IHS is Committed to Working With Tribes



- Striking a balance in program focus on the mother and her infant as characterized in IHS grant programs such as the domestic violence pilots and the MSPI.
- Indian Health Care System approaches and successes in early intervention from Head Start to Public Health Nursing.
- Maintaining workforce effectiveness and building upon the natural maternal, child, and family partnerships to achieve the best impact.



Home Visiting is a Crucial Part of a Life Course Approach



- IHS is committed to the life course perspective
 - Our AI/AN people have always known that what we do now affects the generations to come
 - Now science confirms what happens in prenatal and early life has tremendous impact on the life trajectory of children physically, mentally, and emotionally
- We need to focus on early childhood events, both adverse and positive
 - Early intervention is critical.



Working Together to Help Communities



- Home visiting and early learning communities are a natural – leveraging resources and local collaborations across the perinatal period and into kindergarten. About parenting and mothering
- Community-based early life programs and health care services should be linked, talking
- Health disparities: those risks not addressed in the MCH population become the chronic diseases of adulthood, premature loss of life.



Public Health Nurses Are Vital to Communities



- In 2009, IHS Public Health Nurses conducted:
 - 103,796 home visits and
 - 445,122 total patient visits
- Public Health Nurses have a vacancy rate of 20 percent and an approximate workforce of 250



Mother and Child Program Focus



- Domestic violence initiatives have expanded with the goal to:
 - Improve services to women and families while increasing awareness in the community
 - Four sites are represented here today
- Similarly, seven of our MSPI programs also have home visiting services



IHS Head Start Health Program 1975 to present



Focused training and technical assistance on:

- Obesity
- Early childhood dental caries (screening and varnish)
- Environmental health (lead/safe playgrounds)
- Injury prevention (ride safe, sleep safe, and playground safety)
- Behavioral and mental health, and
- Access to care (Medicaid, CHIPRA)



The future of MCH



- Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding
- Home visiting collaboration with Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH) and ACF
- Healthy Start and community-based doula programming – HRSA Tribal grantees
- Centering Pregnancy - Group prenatal care
- Special Diabetes Prevention Initiative - Family and child focus.
- Healthy Weight for Life – Agency action plan to address obesity across the lifespan



QUESTIONS?