# THE IHS PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER



A journal for health professionals working with American Indians and Alaska Natives

December 2000 Volume 25, Number 12

## What Can the IHS Clinical Support Center Do for You?

In this issue of *The Provider* we would like to present an overview of a few of the services offered by the Indian Health Service (IHS) Clinical Support Center, to be sure that all IHS personnel, facilities, and programs have every opportunity to take advantage of them. We will also describe some new products and services we have recently introduced or will soon make available.

The IHS Clinical Support Center (CSC) is organizationally affiliated with the Phoenix Area Office, but provides services throughout the IHS. The mission of the Clinical Support Center is to serve Indian health program providers through education, communication, and special initiatives. The CSC 1) directs the planning, implementation, and evaluation of accredited continuing education activities for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, pharmacist practitioners, and physician assistants for Indian health programs throughout the United States; 2) enhances communication and information sharing for primary care providers and continuing education planners; and 3) coordinates and facilitates special initiatives and activities for IHS clinical programs.

All IHS, tribal, or urban programs (I/T/U) that have not taken their tribal share of the CSC budget through the compacting or contracting processes are entitled to unlimited use of our services. Compacting and contracting tribes may still use our services, although they may need to reimburse CSC for some of its expenses.

The continuing education staff of the CSC includes a physician educator, a nurse educator (see accompanying box), a pharmacist educator, two dental educators, and the Executive Leadership Development Program staff, as well as clerical and administrative staff to serve your needs.

#### **Sponsorship of Continuing Education**

The CSC is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Nurses

Credentialing Center (ANCC), and the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE). The CSC is thus available to serve as the accredited sponsor for continuing education (CE) for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. Advanced practice nurses, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants can also generally utilize such credit, as can many other health professionals.

This sponsorship relationship is intended to allow the CSC to work in partnership with a service unit or tribal health program to produce quality continuing education activities. The key to assuring sponsorship by the CSC is involvement of CSC at the very beginning of the planning stages for a CE activity. CSC nurse, physician, and pharmacist educators, involved as members of the planning committee for all CSC-sponsored activities, are able to offer assistance with the design, planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities. As the accredited sponsor, the CSC can help guide local planners through the necessary steps to implementing a quality activity that will meet the criteria of the above professional accrediting bodies.

CSC staff maintains on-going contact with each local CE coordinator throughout the planning process of an activity. This

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close contact allows CSC to offer a variety of services including help in developing measurable learning objectives, development of flyers or announcements, or creation of meeting documents (e.g., evaluation tools).

CSC is available to sponsor a wide variety of continuing education activities, such as conferences ranging in duration from one hour to multiple days, ongoing series of one hour presentations offered on a weekly or monthly basis, or conventional Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Life Support (PALS), or other similar "off-the-shelf" courses.

The sponsorship process should be initiated as soon as there is any thought of offering a continuing education (CE) activity. The completion of the one page "Proposal" form starts the process, and it and a collection of supporting materials can be obtained by calling the CSC to request the *Manual for the Sponsorship of Continuing Education*. Alternatively, the Manual can be obtained by going to the IHS homepage at <a href="https://www.ihs.gov">www.ihs.gov</a> on the Internet, choosing "medical programs" on the drop down menu, and choosing "Clinical Support Center" on the next drop down menu. Select "Sponsorship of Continuing Education," and you will be able to read and/or print the *Manual* that contains the one-page Proposal form and many other useful tools and instructions. At this point, the "Proposal" form can be faxed or mailed to us, but before long, we hope to create the ability to complete the process "on line."

After the course is over, CSC will distribute continuing education credit certificates to all who participate. Records of participation in CSC-sponsored activities are kept indefinitely, and individuals who have attended such activities may request a transcript of all credits earned for the year or any other time period.

#### **Meeting Management Services**

When more intensive services are requested, CSC can assist with facility selection, on site meeting support for registration, syllabus production, and evaluation design and tabulation, among other things. Itinerary planning and travel order processing can be arranged on a case-by-case basis. These services are feebased, and availability is subject to the demands of existing CSC workload.

On-line registration for selected meetings is now available using the Internet by going to www.ihs.gov; we hope to be able to offer this service to more meeting planners in the future, so that the registration process can take place on-line to reduce the workload for conference coordinators.

Evaluation tabulation software has recently been installed at CSC, and it is conceivable that we will soon be able to offer assistance with this aspect of conference management.

### The IHS Primary Care Provider

This monthly clinical publication publishes unique, peer reviewed articles about health and health care of American Indians and Alaska Natives. With a distribution of 7500, it is an

## Welcome to the New Nurse Educator at CSC

The Clinical Support Center staff welcomes LCDR Theodora (Dora) Roanhorse Bradley as the new Nurse Educator/Consultant. As a Nurse Educator, LCDR Bradley is responsible for the overall nursing continuing education activities sponsored by CSC, including maintaining national accreditation through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Her work involves planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating quality continuing education programs for nurses at all levels in all I/T/U settings across the country.

LCDR Bradley, originally from Chinle, Arizona, is a member of the Navajo Nation. She is a 1982 graduate of Van Nuys High School in California. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Arizona State University and a Masters of Public Health degree in Health Administration and Policy from the University of Arizona. Her previous experience with quality improvement at HuHuKam Memorial Hospital in Sacaton, Arizona lead to her certification as a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality.

Since 1987, Dora has worked for the Indian Health Service at various locations throughout Arizona: Chinle, Whiteriver, Sacaton, and Phoenix. She is an IHS 437 Scholarship recipient, beginning her career with the COSTEP program, and later as a Pediatric and Clinical Staff Nurse serving various tribes and communities. Her many honors and awards include several Exemplary Group Performance Awards; the Director's Award for Excellence, Phoenix Area IHS, for sustained superior work performance and accomplishments as a Nurse Abstractor for the Gila River Indian Health Care Corporation; and the PHS Achievement Medal for exemplary performance of duty.

Dora is an active member of several professional associations including the Commissioned Officers Association, the National Association of Healthcare Quality, American Public Health Association, the National Nursing Staff Development Organization, the Native American Nurses Association, and the Arizona State University Native American Alumni Association. Representing the American Indian tribes is not new to Dora, as she is a former National Miss Indian USA and currently serves as that scholarship program's Regional Representative.

Dora can be reached at (602) 364-7757; e-mail theodora.bradley@mail.ihs.gov.

#### **CSC Educators and Education Technicians**

Nurse Educator:	Theodora (Dora) Bradley, RN, MPH	theodora.bradley@mail.ihs.gov
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excellent way to reach most of the clinicians and others serving Indian country. Articles discuss epidemiologic data, program activities, new initiatives, IHS priorities, legislative issues, disease management, and many other topics. Regular features describe upcoming clinical meetings and how to register for them, position vacancies, Network for Continuing Medical Education (NCME) continuing education tapes available for borrowing, and a cumulative index of the health literature pertaining to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Facilities may take advantage of the ability to advertise their vacancies, and meeting planners are welcome to submit notices of upcoming meetings for the *Meetings of Interest* section. More elaborate, full page meeting announcements and/or call for papers notices may be placed as well.

Would-be authors are welcome to submit manuscripts that would be of interest to the readers. CSC will provide as much assistance as is necessary to get a paper ready for publication, and this experience may pave the way for future efforts to publish in the medical literature.

Subscription to The IHS Provider is free to those in IHS or in tribal or urban programs that have not compacted or contracted. Subscriptions for others are available for a small fee. Back issues of The IHS Provider are available on the Internet.

#### How to Reach Us

In October 1999 CSC relocated from the Aztec Building at 1616 East Indian School near the campus of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center to the same building as the IHS Phoenix Area Office in downtown Phoenix. As a result our address and phone and fax numbers have all changed. Our address is

The IHS Clinical Support Center Two Renaissance Square, Suite 780 40 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85004

The phone number is (602) 364-7777. The fax number is (602) 364-7788. All of the continuing education educators and clerical staff may be reached by e-mail at the addresses listed above, and this is an excellent way to submit items, ask questions, or obtain information.

### What the future may bring

In addition to the proposed new services mentioned above (on-line registration, and evaluation tabulation), we would like to be able to offer the capability to submit proposals for sponsorship of continuing education activities on-line; we would also accept any supporting documentation or information in the same fashion.

There are facilities that come to us from time to time having just recently found out about our services. We would like to be sure that all facilities are familiar with our products and services and have the opportunity to take advantage of them. To spread the word, we will be trying some new strategies in the future.

### **Other CSC Services**

In addition to offering continuing education services, the CSC serves as home to the Executive Leadership Development Program, national recruitment efforts for pharmacy, the Pharmacy Practice Training Program, and dental education services for IHS. We hope to share more information about these programs in future issues.

## On-Line Graduate Course: "The Health of American Indians and Alaska Natives"

This is a four credit graduate course designed to survey the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including their special genetic, cultural, social, and biomedical characteristics. It is currently available in a dynamic, interactive distance education format. It is being offered for the second year in a row at this time, and will be available again 2001. IHS and tribal employees who are pursuing graduate education in public health have participated, as well as those who are simply interested and/

or who work with American Indians and Alaska Natives.

For more information, visit the website at <a href="http://distance.jhsph.edu/haian">http://distance.jhsph.edu/haian</a>, or contact Maha Asham, MD, MPH, Research Associate and Director, Community Health Training, Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian and Alaskan Native Health, 621 North Washington Street, Baltimore, MD 21205; phone (410) 955-6931; fax (410) 955-2010; e-mail <a href="maistana@jhsph.edu">masham@jhsph.edu</a>.



### NIH Summer Hire Program for AI/AN Students

The National Institute for General Medical Science (NIGMS) is the institute that includes the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research. That division, under the leadership of Dr. Clifton Poodry, is partnering with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to establish American Indian and Alaska Native research centers and to increase the involvement of Indian people in the decision-making process of research and in conducting research. Dr. Poodry is committed to finding summer employment opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native students, in his division and

elsewhere in the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The 2001 NIH Summer Program will be open to applications through March 2, 2001. If you know of any students that may be interested in working at NIH this coming summer, please pass this information on to them. Information regarding the program, how to apply, eligibility, etc. is available at <a href="http://www.jobs.nih.gov">http://www.jobs.nih.gov</a>. Click on "Summer Internships," which is one of the teal blocks located at the top right corner of the first screen. Students must apply on-line using "Career Here."

### INDIAN AGING CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

### American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting May 9-13, 2001; Chicago, Illinois

This is a gathering of over 2000 Geriatrics professionals, representing the leaders in the field. In addition to special presentations on a variety of topics, there is a core curriculum review in geriatrics, which is excellent. This would be an valuable update for physicians, nurses, advance practice nurses, and physician assistants. For more information, go to www.americangeriatrics.org.

### Summer 2001 Geriatric Institute June 7-9, 2001; Albuquerque, New Mexico

The New Mexico Geriatric Education Center (NMGEC) is pleased to announce the next Geriatric Institute June 7-9, 2001. Mark your calendar! Topics will include a comprehensive "best practices" view from onset to final stages of the four major killers of elders: End Organ Disease/Diabetes, Cardiovascular/Coronary

Artery Disease, Stoke/Hypertension, and Malignancies. This year's event will be cosponsored with the IHS through the Elder Care Initiative, Bruce Finke, MD, National Coordinator. As last year, the NMGEC will be offering scholarships for IHS and tribal health care providers who work with American Indian elders.

If you are not on our mailing list, please contact Darlene A. Franklin, Program Manager, New Mexico Geriatric Education Center,1836 Lomas Blvd., NE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Albuquerque, NM 87131; e-mail *dfranklin@salud.unm.edu*; telephone (505) 277-0911; fax (505) 277-9897.

### Arizona Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting November 8-10, 2001; Tempe (Phoenix), Arizona

The 2001 conference will focus on pain management/palliative care and Alzheimer's disease. The specific agenda, topics, and speakers are currently being developed. For more information, go to www.arizonageriatrics.org.



the health of Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries by providing assistance to tribes and tribal organizations," then call Nieves Miljure at (907) 729-1305 or Rose Notti at (907) 729-1329, Human Resources Department, for further information. Job information and how to apply is also available at the Office of Personnel Management job information website at www.opm.gov, and the IHS website at www.ihs.gov.

### Registered Nurse Social Worker Administrative Assistant Shingle Springs Rancheria; Shingle Springs, California

The registered nurse is responsible for patient services management. Qualifications include current RN license, one year experience in an outpatient clinic setting, and driver's license (must be insurable by the tribe's automobile insurance company). Salary range: BS degree \$36,102 - 46,931/yr., DOE; AS degree \$29,392 - 35,568/yr., DOE.

The LCSW is responsible for the overall management of the mental health department. Qualifications include current State of California LCSW license and assurance of skills to provide evaluation and counseling of individuals and families. Salary range: \$43,270 - 56,250/yr.

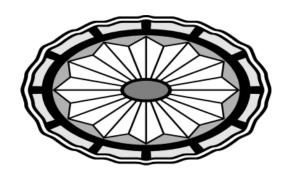
The administrative assistant performs general office duties and provides general administrative support to the Executive Director. Supervises administrative department clerical staff and volunteers. Minimum one year office experience required. Salary range: \$7.50 - \$10.50/hour.

For information about any of these positions, contact Shingle Springs Rancheria, P.O. Box 1340, Shingle Springs, California 95682-1340; attention: Personnel; telephone (530) 676-8010; fax (530) 676-8033

### Field Environmental Health Specialists District Environmental Health Specialists District Injury Prevention Specialist Navajo Area; Window Rock, Arizona

The Navajo Area Division Of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) is recruiting for Field Environmental Health Specialists in Crownpoint, New Mexico as well as in Winslow, Many Farms, and Tuba City, Arizona, and for District Environmental Health Specialists in Fort Defiance, Arizona, and Shiprock, New Mexico. The Field Specialists have duties and responsibilities in the areas of water quality, food service, institutional environmental health, vector borne diseases, epidemiology, and injury prevention. The District Specialists plan, organize, direct, and evaluate a comprehensive environmental health program. DEHS is also recruiting for a District Injury Prevention Specialist in Shiprock, New Mexico. The District Injury Prevention Specialist collects and analyzes data, coordinates injury control activities, plans demonstration projects, and coordinates trainings.

For additional information, contact Chuck Freeman at (520) 871-1451. CVs can be mailed to the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, P.O. Box 9020, Window Rock. Arizona 86515.



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THE PROVIDER is published monthly by the Indian Health Service Clinical Support Center (CSC). Telephone: (602) 364-7777; Fax: (602) 364-7788; e-mail: the.provider@phx.ihs.gov. Previous issues of The Provider (beginning with the February 1994 issue) can be found at the CSC home page, www.csc.ihs.gov.

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Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Indian Health Service or the Editors.

Circulation: The Provider (ISSN 1063-4398) is distributed to more than 6000 health care providers working for the IHS and tribal health programs, to medical and nursing schools throughout the country, and to health professionals working with or interested in American Indian and Alaska Native health care. If you would like to receive a copy, send your name, address, professional title, and place of employment to the address listed below.

Publication of articles: Manuscripts, comments, and letters to the editor are welcome. Items submitted for publication should be no longer than 3000 words in length, typed, double spaced, and conform to manuscript standards. PC-compatible word processor files are preferred. Manuscripts may be received via e-mail.

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