



NPAIHB

Indian Leadership for Indian Health

NPAIHB COVID-19 Weekly Update

Please sign in using the chat box:

Enter the tribe or organization you are representing
and names of all people participating with you today

Information for Today's Call

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome & Introduction: Chairman Lewis
- ▶ NPAIHB COVID-19 Situation Report: Celeste Davis
- ▶ Indian Health Service Update: Dean Seyler
- ▶ Workforce Survey Update: Erik Brodt, MD, OHSU
- ▶ State Partner Updates:
 - ▶ Washington: Lou Schmitz, Tamara Fife, Jessie Dean and Tam Lutz
 - ▶ Oregon: Julie Johnson and Sue Steward
 - ▶ Idaho: Joyce Broadsword and Jessica Leston
- ▶ Legislative and Policy Update: Veronica Smith
- ▶ Questions/Comments

Guidelines

- ▶ Please place yourself on mute unless speaking
- ▶ Sign in, using chat box, with your tribe/organization and names of all participants
- ▶ Use the chat box for questions, for Q&A after updates and announcements

NPAIHB COVID-19 Situation Report

Celeste Davis

C-19 Emergency Response - NPAIHB Situation Report: 12/15/20

Keys to Victory

- ▶ Vaccinations: Pfizer vaccine approved, distributed to states and IHS
 - ▶ Moderna vaccine FDA EUA approval expected, distribution next week
 - ▶ Discussion on Wednesday COVID-19 ECHO
- ▶ Community Engagement: community rates, risks and the preventive measures
- ▶ Policy, education, and enforcement: Mandatory masks and limitations on gatherings/number of people per setting
- ▶ Testing and Tracing: consider screening testing for essential workers, group settings
 - ▶ Keep up the investigations and tracing - move to surge practices if needed
- ▶ *Reminder: PPE & Medical Supplies - hthompsonduffy-contractor@npaihb.org
CDC Infection Control Risk Assessment - sblackshear@npaihb.org

Indian Health Service Update

Dean Seyler

Workforce Survey Update

Erik Brodt, MD

Oregon Health & Science University, Native American Center of Excellence



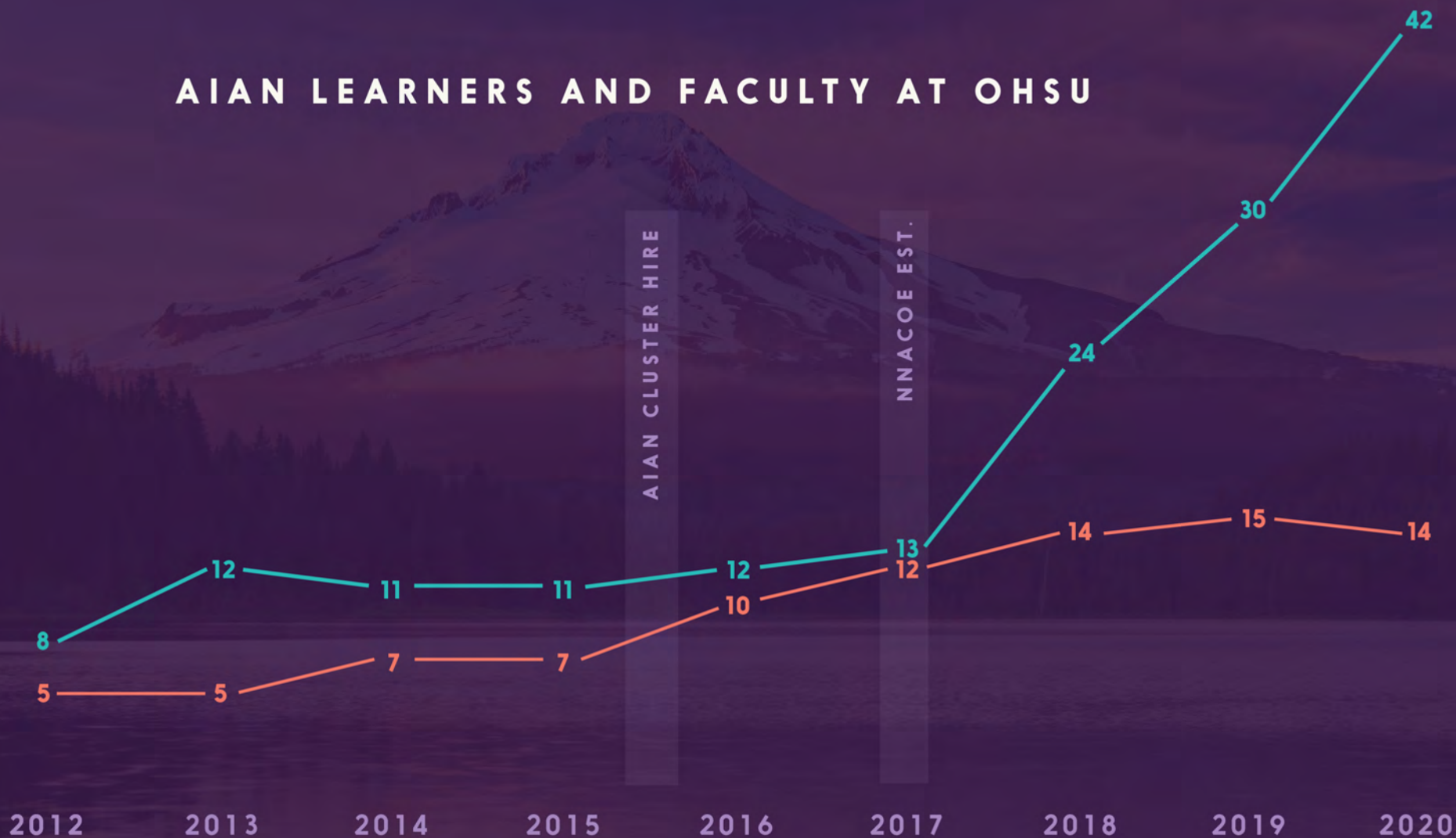
Tribal Health Workforce Survey:

NNACoE + NPAIHB joint effort to identify health workforce needs

NPAIHB QBM: DECEMBER, 2020
PRESENTED BY: Drs. Erik R. Brodt – Brodt@ohsu.edu



AIAN LEARNERS AND FACULTY AT OHSU



— NUMBER OF AIAN TOTAL LEARNERS (UME, GME, WY' EAST)

— NUMBER OF AIAN FACULTY

GOALS: Tribal Health Workforce Survey

1. Accurate picture of Tribal Health Workforce data & needs in the PNW
2. Inform health professional education programs and schools across the region
3. Illuminate the economic impact of Tribal health workforce

DETAILS: Tribal Health Workforce Survey

- Survey arrive from NPAIHB EXEC-Director Platero
- Honorarium to person who completes survey (\$125)
- Goal completion by end of **JANUARY 2021**
- Analysis & Economic Impact Modeling
- Develop & Share polished report with Tribes

**We believe in a
new generation of
Indigenous health
professionals**



State Partner Updates

Washington AIHC/DOH/HCA: Lou Schmitz, Tamara Fife, Jessie Dean and Tam Lutz

Oregon OHA: Julie Johnson and Sue Steward

Idaho DHW: Joyce Broadsword and Jessica Leston

Legislative and Policy Update

Veronica Smith

Legislative and Policy Update (as of 12/15 at 9:00am)

- Continuing Resolution in place until 12/18/2020 (includes SDPI and Tribal TANF)
- Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 passed the Senate on 12/9
 - Amends statutes to prohibit co-pays at VA clinics for AI/AN veterans
 - Forms Tribal Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - Allows MOUs between IHS and VA so case managers can provide housing case mgmt

COVID-19 Relief Package - split into two bill bills

- Bi-Partisan State and Local Support and Small Business Protection Act of 2020
 - Extension for spending CARES Act funds to 12/31/2020
 - \$152b to state and local governments
 - \$8b for Tribes (allocated 60% population, 40% # of employees of each Tribal entity)

Legislative and Policy Update (as of 12/15 at 9:00am)

- Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020
 - \$1b in Provider Relief Funds for I/T/U system
 - \$129m from the CDC for vaccinations/infrastructure for I/T/U (can be transferred to IHS)
 - \$350m in grants to I/T/U for COVID-19 testing/tracing
 - \$185m I/T/U set-aside under SAMHSA, with language that allows a transfer to IHS
 - \$50m Tribal set-aside for Tribal Opioid Response grants
 - \$50m for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 - Telehealth waiver extensions to 12/31/2021
 - Extension of unemployment assistance (additional \$300/week for 16 weeks)

Legislative and Policy Update (as of 12/15 at 9:00am)

- New bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation introduced re Surprise Medical Billing
 - Holds patients harmless in emergency situations; not able to choose in-network providers
 - Prohibits some balance billing by out-of-network providers
 - Creates an independent dispute resolution process
 - Includes additional consumer protections
- FY 2021 Omnibus Appropriations legislation (\$1.4 trillion, text due today)¹
 - Compromises reached on border wall, ICE detention capacity, and veteran's healthcare funding
 - If it moves forward, will most likely include COVID package(s) and Surprise Medical Billing leg
- Multiple Final Rules and Rulemaking changes published in the Federal Register
 - HIPAA proposed changes (improves patient rights, improves E-PHI sharing, changes some admin processes)
 - Final rule re. 340b Drug Pricing Program (established an Alternative Dispute Resolution process)
 - CMS proposed changes to Medicaid/CHIP re prior authorizations and HIE
 - CMS extended blanket waivers through the end of the public health emergency

¹ [Shutt, Jennifer; Krawzak, Paul M. Negotiators Wrapping Up Omnibus Deal, Plan to File Tuesday. Roll Call, 12/14/2020](#)

NPAIHB Medicare/Medicaid Policy Support

- Background: Tribal Technical Advisory Group to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has a subcommittee focusing on Medicare/Medicaid policy issues
- There are some common themes throughout Indian Country
 - Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO): Limited understanding re. Indian Health Care system
 - Same billing denials for services happening in different Areas (i.e. non-contracted provider denials)
 - Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) companies not paying, paying incorrectly, takebacks
 - Need to develop best practices - what works and why
- NPAIHB would like to know if you or your business office staff need support in this area, if you have specific challenges with MCO's or PBM's, and if you have successes you would like to share as a best practice
- If you or someone on your staff is interested in participating, please contact Veronica Smith at vsmith-contractor@npaihb.org or 360-224-4430.
- If you wish to work directly with CMS, please contact Rhonda Martinez-McFarland at Rhonda.martinez-mcfarland@cms.hhs.gov

Meetings and Deadlines

SDPI Grant Continuation Applications - **DUE TODAY!**

- Option One - all documents submitted via Grant Solutions by 9/2/2020
- Option Two - SF-424 and brief statement submitted by 9/2/2020 AND remaining application documents by 12/15

Upcoming listening sessions on IHS Information Technology Modernization

- DTLL issued on 12/10
- RADM Weahkee recommends full replacement of RPMS
- Listening Sessions: 12/17 at 11am and 1/14/2021 at 11am (registration required)

Portland Area IHS sent a DTLL on Nov 25, 2020 re. FY 2021 medical equipment funds for tribally constructed health facilities

- Application deadline is 1/15/2021
- Call Johnathan McNamara with questions at 503-414-7770 or e-mail at Jonathan.mcnamara@ihs.gov

Questions & Comments

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of orange and green. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors are muted and earthy, with the orange appearing in various tones from light to dark, and the green in similar muted shades. The overall composition is clean and modern.