Stronger Together: Public Health Leadership Opportunities in Indian Country

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Presentation Overview

• A quick look of Cherokee Nation

• What is public health and what does it mean to Tribes?

• What is our collective vision as Tribes?

• What will it take for us to unite and achieve our vision?
We Are Public Health

Gathering and preparing traditional foods strengthens our culture and our health. Learn more at cherokeepublichealth.org.

Cherokee Nation Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

GW 29 DBP
Cherokee Nation®
Overview of Cherokee Nation
(Tribal Jurisdiction)

- Comprised of 14 counties in NE Oklahoma
- Tribal Jurisdictional Service Area (TJSA) – 9,200 square miles
- Over 315,000 citizens
- 210,000 in OK
- 140,000 in TJSA
- Multi-jurisdictional
Health Services in Cherokee Nation
What is public health?!

- What does public health mean to Tribes?
- Why should we “invest” in public health?
- Why should we care?
- Why has it been difficult to articulate in Tribes?
What is Public Health?

- Public Health focuses on the health of ENTIRE populations BEFORE illness onsets – while people are still healthy.
- Rather than on individual patients AFTER they become ill.

**The proactive preventative approach is the single most important distinction between Public Health and Clinical Medicine**
Health Impact Pyramid
CHEROKEE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

TRIBAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013-2017

By Cherokee for all. People living happy and healthy for this and future generations.

PREPARED BY
REDSTAR INNOVATIONS
WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH?

- **Indian Health Service (2013)** $2,741
- Bureau of Prisons (2006 estimate) $3,986
- Medicaid recipients (2014) $7,565
- Veterans Administration (2009) $4,457/$12,658
- Medicare (2014) $12,051
- US General Population (2014) $9,255

* $1 spent on prevention saves $5.60 in health spending


Modifiable Factors That Influence Health

- Physical Environment, 10%
- Social and Economic Factors, 40%
- Clinical Care, 20%
- Health Behaviors, 30%
HARD TO DEFINE?!

- Diverse and Unique
- Linked closely to direct care
- Trying to “fit” rather than “define”
- Terminology
- Strengths/Weaknesses
• Where are we?
• Collective Vision
• How do we get there?
• Who is PHAB?
• Why accreditation?
What is Public Health Accreditation?

• Nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards
• Continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.
• Visibility and public awareness
• Greater public trust
• Credibility and stronger constituency for public health funding and infrastructure
IMO....

- Leadership
- Shift in Thinking
- Humility
- Partnerships
- Flexibility
- Patience
LEADERSHIP

"SIYO... HERE'S YOUR MONTHLY SUBSIDY"

Source: Cherokee Phoenix January 2013
SHIFT IN THINKING

• Job Sharing
• Inclusion
• Clinical to Community
• Embracing What is Good Now
• Creative Financing
• No Longer Optional
HUMILITY

Cherokee syllabary:
hsí di4oW0u
dsc0ura

Pronunciation:
tsigav aquasesla adeloquasdi

English translation:
Learn From All I Observe
PARTNERSHIPS

• National Organizations
• Other Tribes
• Clinical Providers
• State/Local Health Departments
• Communities (not just locations)
• Mutually-Beneficial
PATIENCE
FLEXIBILITY

This year thousands of men will die from stubbornness.

NO WE WON'T
In Closing........