



# Community Health Aide Program (CHAP): Billings Area Progress

## Fort Belknap Indian Community

Prepared by Xanovea, Inc.  
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Preferred reference: Fort Belknap Indian Community, Prepared by Xanovea, Inc. Contact Byron Larson for Questions: 206-214-5424



# Acknowledgements

- Billings Area CHAP TAG Representative, Chairman Davis, Blackfeet Nation, Fort Belknap President Werk, CHAP Chairman, Dominic Messerly, Fort Belknap Councilman
- Billings Area Office Director Redgrave, Chief Medical Officer Williamson, Chief Behavioral Health Officer Dr. Ostby
- Academic Review Committee Subcommittee Co-Chairpersons; Fort Belknap Indian Community Chief Medical Officer Show, Behavioral Health Director Dr. Foster, Dental Director Dr. Lanza.
- Billings Area Tribes, Tribal Presidents and Chairpersons and Councilpersons, TCU Presidents and Provosts, Montana State Representatives Windyboy and Small.



# Billings Area CHAP Operating Authorities:

- Federal legislation:
- Snyder Act, 25 USC § 13
- Transfer Act, 42 USC § 2001
- Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 USC § § 5301 et seq
- US DHHS & Indian Health Service Circular Number 20-06



# CHAP Statutory & Regulatory Authorities

- Federal legislation: Title 25 USC 1616l: Community Health Aide Program, Chapter 18 Indian Health Care, Subchapter I-Indian Health Professional Personnel. In general:
  - Authorizes the Secretary to create a National CB and Area CBs
  - Requires the Secretary to develop training and a curriculum to provide a high standard of training to CHA/Ps in pursuit of high standards of training.
  - Requires CHAP CBs demonstrate the ability to maintain a system that identifies the needs of CHA/Ps in continuing education, clinical supervision, and that the CBs and procedures for certifying CHA/Ps are monitored and evaluated.
  - Under Subsection 3. A., requires an Indian Tribe or tribal organization to be authorized under State law to perform DHA/Ts services in accordance with State law.
- Fort Belknap Indian Community's Sovereign Authority: Passed unanimously Resolution Number 30-2019, February 25, 2019: As a federally recognized tribe, the Fort Belknap Indian Community exercised its sovereign right to implement with the Indian Health Service an area certification board and its constituent parts.
- Montana State Legislation: Montana State House Bill 599 commissioned by the Fort Belknap Indian Community and President Werk, and Health Committee Chairperson Messerly, and sponsored by the Honorable Johnathan Windyboy (RockyBoy) in the House of Representatives and in the Senate by the Honorable Jason Small (Northern Cheyenne), in the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Bullock on May 9, 2019.



# Key Features of Montana State CHAP Legislation

- Allows an individual without a license to provide health care services within the scope of certification according to previously described authorities.
- Montana Medicaid program Section 53-6-101, MCA is amended to reflect federal statutes related to CHAP.
- Only exclusion to service delivery is Section 2 Paragraph 3 (a) “performing dental extractions or invasive procedures to teeth and gums is prohibited”.
- Under Section 2 Paragraph 4 includes “official duties on behalf of the US Government under the IHS, a tribal program authorized under PL 93-638, or an urban Indian health center”.
- Directs DPHHS to apply for a CMS State Plan Amendment or research and demonstration project waiver to comply with federal and state CHAP certification requirements.
- Sunsets September 30, 2023.



# Billings Area Certification Board & Academic Review Committee Progress Summary

- Billings Area initialization of an Area Certification Board & Academic Review Committees: Area Tribal Representation
- Creation of Regional ACB Policies and Procedures and Licensing Manual
  - Governance and authorities
  - Standards for Community Health Aides and Practitioners, Curriculum, Training Sites, management and administration, and records management
  - Detailed and explicit training, education and core competencies
  - Detailed and explicit definitions and levels of supervision
  - Detailed and explicit minimum requirements for each “step or grade” e.g., CHA I, II, III, T



# Billings Area Certification Board & Academic Review Committees Initialization

- Consistent with Circular #20-06, Section C. IHS Area Directors. Requested authorization from Headquarters to formally consults with Area Tribes to formally appoint members to the Billings Area ACB and makes recommendations for appointments to the NCB. Have worked directly with Billings Area Tribes to initiate a formal board composition in its charters and to develop the procedures of the Billings Area ACB and ARC committees. Billings Area Office has appointed two federal representative to serve on the ACB.
- Consistent with Circular #20-06, F. Area and/or Regional Certification Boards (ACBs). Development of Billings Area CHA/BHA/&DHA standards, and eventual administrative and management systems to of ACB and ARC standards compliance and CHAP program evaluation, consistent with Indian Health Service Policy and National Certification Board policies and procedures.
- Consistent with Circular #20-06, Section F. (5) & (6) Ensures the National CHAP Standards and Procedures and the respective Area curriculum are culturally tailored and accessible to Area Tribal members. Billings Area ACB and ARC are nearing completing of Billings Area Certification Board Dental, Behavioral Health and Community Health Standards and Curriculum, in reflection of self-determination, area tribal preferences and historical customs, and clinical, public health and institutional capacities.



# Billings Area Certification Board & Academic Review Committees Next Steps

- Finalize ACB Standards, Policy and Procedures Manual & Academic Review Committee Curriculum for each service.
- Complete all required PSFAs contained in Circular 20-06, and finalized Billings Area ACB Standards Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Assist tribes in completing resolutions for formal representation on the ACB, ARC, and to modify their ISDEAA Contracts/Compacts.
- Assist Area and RMTLC response to Billings Area CHAP Consultation.
- Provide recommendation to RMTLC to nominate a Billings Area National Certification Board Delegate, Alternate and Technical Assistance Representatives.



# Billings Area Certification Board & Academic Review Committees Next Steps

- Continue to develop TCUs, Academic Institutions & Training Sites models and engagement
- Continue to negotiate Montana & Wyoming State Plan Amendments for CHAP
  - Language will be condensed from detailed certification requirements of each category of service by levels, e.g., CHA I, II, III, P
  - Montana and Wyoming State Plan Amendments will be modeled after Alaska's existing State Plan Amendment.
  - Initialization and ongoing administrative and compliance integration with Billings Area Office and National Certification Board
- Assist in concluding recommendations on Indian Health Service CHAP TAG Tribal Consultation: Billings Area Funding & NCB Oversight.



# Fort Belknap Indian Community

Acknowledgment and Contacts

Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

Andy Werk Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community President

Dominic Messerly, CHAP ACB Chairman

River District Gros Ventre Representative

Please contact me below and I will route questions through FBIC.

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