

# **DHS Tribal relations**

## ***Government-to-Government Report, 2001***

### **Introduction**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is committed to joining with the Tribes of Oregon to address the full range of human services issues. Major areas of work with the Tribes include:

- Health care
- Child welfare
- Public welfare
- Alcohol and drug prevention and treatment
- Public health
- Mental health
- Developmental disability services
- Elder care
- Care for persons with disabilities
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Any human services issues that the Tribes wish to discuss

This report describes highlights of recent and current work in many of these areas. The report covers highlights of the interaction and program developments between the Tribes and DHS. Several of the areas covered in this report were identified at the December 2000 Government to Government meeting, held in Portland.

### **2001 activity highlights**

#### **New DHS**

During 2001, DHS began a massive restructuring, consolidating administrative supports and streamlining services. Although the remaking of such a large organization is a complex task, the purpose is simple: to achieve better outcomes for clients and communities.

Throughout the process, DHS has sought and received consultation from the Tribes of Oregon. They continue to be a valued advisor.

## **Health services: health care**

Health care continues to be a major agenda item between DHS and the Tribes. The DHS Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) continues its leadership with the Tribes in this area. Recent work has focused on billing and reimbursement issues.

- OMAP helped the Tribes bill for medical services using the federal encounter rate, which will get the Tribes reimbursed at a higher dollar amount.
- OMAP updated the American Indian/Alaska native billing guide to reflect HIPAA requirements.
- OMAP continues to be a leader by participating with a federal technical assistance group on recommendations to the federal government regarding services for American Indian/Alaskan Native.
- In conjunction with the DHS Director's Office, OMAP is working with the Coquille Tribe to enable the Tribe to receive Administrative Match funds, making them the first Tribe in Oregon to receive these dollars.

## **Health services: mental health**

The Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services has continued to partner with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon on issues ranging from joint conference planning and participation to ongoing development of a plan for Tribes to become Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA).

The Tribes and DHS were key players in passage of two pieces of legislation this year. The first was House Bill 3024, which established a Statewide Mental Health Plan.

The second piece of legislation changed the language in ORS 430.640, which establishes the criteria for Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA). The language changed from requiring that the Tribe be land-based to a federally recognized Tribe. This change allows all nine Tribes within Oregon to become their own LMHA, if they so desire, potentially making mental health services more accessible to Tribal members.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is currently in negotiation with the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMH/AS) to become a LMHA.

The Tribes helped plan and participated in the workgroup presentations of the first Annual Minority Mental Health Conference.

OMH/AS has a commitment to support and foster all ongoing working relationships and develop new and creative ways in which to partner with Oregon Indian communities.

## **Health services: alcohol and drug abuse**

In the area of Alcohol and Drug abuse, the Emergency Board has approved a maximum of \$95,000 in Prevention Enhancement funds for the 2001-2003 biennium for all nine recognized Tribes. Other successful opportunities include:

- A joint project with the Oregon Department of Education resulted in 21 Native American youth trained as HIV peer educators.
- Letters approving Tribes as alcohol and drug programs were issued to the Warm Springs, Siletz, Grand Ronde, Burns Paiute, Cow Creek, Umatilla, and Klamath Tribes.
- DHS alcohol and drug staff held a workshop to help the Tribes apply for a federal RFP on juvenile crime prevention. Burns Paiute, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and the Coquille Indian Tribes each received \$150,000 for a three-year period.
- The Tribal State Incentive Cooperative Agreement was completed in September 2001. All nine Tribes stated that they have a closer relationship with DHS, Department of Education, and OYA as a result of this grant.
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was identified by the Legislature as a major issue to address this year. As a result the DHS Health Cluster (of which alcohol and drug is a part) will work collaboratively with the Department of Education to pilot an approach targeting two entities, Linn County and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

## **Health services: public health**

### **Breast and Cervical Cancer Program**

Public Health Services funds a half-time Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Coordinator at Indian Health Services and provides \$25,000 to each Tribe for education and promotion.

### **Tobacco Prevention**

Oregon may be the only state in the Union to provide Tobacco Prevention money directly to the Tribes. The Tribes developed the formula for distribution of funds. Because of the religious significance of tobacco in Indian culture careful distinctions are drawn between the use of tobacco in its religious and cultural practice and the misuse of tobacco as it relates to health.

### **Youth Suicide Prevention**

Following a teen suicide, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Madras community held a two-day workshop on suicide prevention and how to recognize youth at risk.

### **Women, Infant and Children's Program**

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs manage their own WIC Program. Funded by DHS, the program operates under DHS assurances, and training, staff development and consultation, and nutritional services are provided by DHS.

## **Seniors and people with disabilities**

A Tribal Elders Abuse Conference was held in May 2001, sponsored by SPD's Abuse Prevention Unit, the McMinneville Senior Services office and the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Nearly 100 people attended the all-day event held at Spirit Mountain, including Grand Ronde social and medical service providers, other Oregon Tribal leadership and elder

program coordinators, and numerous interested professional. Attorney General Hardy Meyers, National Indian Council on Aging, Director Dave Baldrige were speakers.

### **Medicare empowerment grant**

DHS applied for and received a grant to provide Medicare outreach, information, and benefits access to Native American and Hispanic senior communities. The grant enables elders and their families/caregivers to access Medicare information to learn about benefit entitlements, patient rights and choices, and information on how Medicare and supplemental insurance works.

Currently, five Tribes participate in this program, receiving a high-quality computer, computer furniture and one year of paid Internet access. Four other Tribes are considering participating.

### **State plan on aging 2002-2005**

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla were part of the nine-member advisory committee that developed Oregon's state plan on aging.

### **Native American caregiving**

A new family caregiver support program was created by the 2000 Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Statewide, the area agencies on aging and all of the Native American Title VI programs received funding for this program.

All six Title VI recipients were awarded additional caregiving grants to develop services that will enable family caregivers to receive support services while caring for their aging relatives.

### **Video project**

A Native American elder-abuse video is being developed by the Adult Protective Services unit with a \$75,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Justice.

The project advisory board consists of mostly Tribal leadership. The RFP went to independent Native American production companies.

The National Council on Aging has offered to make copies of the video and distribute it to every Tribe in the U.S.

## **Children, adult and family services**

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) continues to be one of the cornerstones of the relationship between DHS and the Tribes of Oregon.

DHS continues to offer training on ICWA to all of its partners and staff. Prompt intervention in the early stages of ICWA cases has greatly reduced areas of dispute and ICWA non-compliance.

The 2001 ICWA Conference, held at Grand Ronde, was very successful for both Tribal and State participants. Native American culture was featured throughout the conference and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted a welcome dinner for the conference. Written participant evaluations rated this conference as very good and excellent with many reporting a new insight into ICWA and the Tribes.

A joint DHS-Tribal workgroup is developing a document that will describe the Principles & Expectations for Active Efforts. Active efforts - in contrast to reasonable efforts - is a higher level of effort required by federal law for ICWA cases. This project is in partnership with all nine Oregon Tribes.

### **Tribal agreements**

DHS has prioritized the need for a more efficient and timely negotiation process for DHS agreements and contracts with Oregon Tribes. DHS Children, Adult & Families enters into ICWA and federal fund access agreements with the Tribes.

Significant progress has been made this year in finalizing or initiating Tribal agreements. The Coquille ICWA agreement is in the process of being signed and finalized. A new model ICWA agreement is being sent to the other Oregon Tribes for their consideration in updating their existing agreement, or entering into a new ICWA agreement with DHS.

New Title IV-E agreements, which allow payment for administrative and training cost to Tribes, have been finalized for the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

DHS has negotiated and renewed two Temporary Assistance for Needy Families agreements with the Klamath Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. DHS continues to work with the Warm Springs Tribe to improve the service delivery system between DHS the Tribes.

*Bobby S. Mink, Director*