



OCPS
OFFICE OF CLINICAL AND
PREVENTIVE SERVICES

Community Health Aide Program Expansion Updates

National Indian Health Board
Tribal Public Health Summit

September 20, 2018

What is the Community Health Aide Program?



Behavioral Health Aide

- Focuses on behavioral health topics and works under a licensed provider
- Tiered Practice Level- BHA I, BHA II, BHA III, BH Practitioner



Community Health Aide

- Focuses on responding to basic medical emergencies and medical treatment works under a physician
- Tiered Practice Level: CHA I, CHA II, CHA III, CH Practitioner



Dental Health Aide

- Focuses on preventive and restorative oral health care and works under the supervisor of a licensed dentist
- Tiered Practice Level: DHA I, DHA II, DHA III, DHA Therapist

CHAP Expansion Recap

- **2016-** Tribal Consultation initiated on CHAP Expansion
- **2017-** IHS issued a report on consultation and policy statement on decision to move forward with expansion
- **2017-** Agency continued to engage stakeholders to begin laying foundation for expansion
- **2018-** CHAP Tribal Advisory Group established



CHAP Tribal Advisory Group

- The CHAP TAG convened in March 2018 in Phoenix, AZ for their inaugural meeting and put forth the following recommendations:
 - IHS develop workgroups to address key priorities in developing a national program
 - IHS develop an interim policy for Tribes who have invested in health aides
 - Increase community education and stakeholder engagement



IHS Response to CHAP TAG Recommendations

- **Workgroups:** Established workgroups to develop recommendations for the behavioral health and dental health aide programs
- **Interim Policy:** Began developing interim policy based on recommendations from CHAP TAG
- **Education:** Established the CHAP Expansion website

CHAP Tribal Advisory Group

- The CHAP TAG convened in August 2018 in Seattle, WA to receive updates on the interim policy and recommend next steps. They put forth the following recommendations:
 - To provide additional recommendations on the working draft of the interim policy
 - IHS respond to recommendations by September 26th
 - CHAP TAG reconvene October 2018 to discuss policy and next steps



IHS Response to CHAP TAG Recommendations

- **Interim Policy:** Currently responding to the recommendations put forth by the CHAP TAG specifically the certification board structure under the interim policy.
- **In-Person Meeting:** IHS will host the CHAP TAG on October 10th at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, MD

CHAP Expansion Website

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Indian Health Service
The Federal Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives

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Community Health Aide Program Expansion



The Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) is a multidisciplinary system of mid-level behavioral, community, and dental health professionals working alongside licensed providers to offer patients increased access to quality care in rural Alaskan areas. In 2016, The Indian Health Service (IHS) consulted with Tribes on expanding the program, and in 2018, formed the [CHAP Tribal Advisory Group \(CHAP TAG\)](#) to expand CHAP to the lower 48 states.

www.ihs.gov/chap



Resources

- General
 - [IHS Dear Tribal Leader Letter \(6/2016\)](#)
 - [IHS CHAP Press Release \(1/2017\)](#)
 - [IHS Policy Statement on CHAP Expansion](#)
 - [Alaska CHAP](#)
 - [IHS Circular 18-01 Community Health Aide Program Tribal Advisory Group Charter \(2/2018\)](#)
 - [IHS CHAP Website](#)
 - [IHS CHAP Expansion Overview](#)
- Behavioral Health Aide
 - [Behavioral Health Aides: A Promising Practice for Frontier Communities](#)
 - [An Action Plan for Behavioral Health Workforce Development](#)
 - [Alaska Behavioral Health Aide Program](#)
 - [Alaska BHAs 101](#)
- Dental Health Aide
 - [Alaska Dental Health Aide Program](#)
 - [Sample Dental Therapy Curriculum for Community Colleges](#)
 - [Current Use of DHATs in Indian Country and Beyond](#)
 - [Dental Health Aides 101](#)



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