

Health and Human Services

Tribal Self-Governance

On June 29, 1994 a meeting of tribal representatives, Portland, was held to discuss and review a Report of the Indian Health Service Quality Management Workgroup findings on Restructuring of IHS. The workgroup concentrated its attention on the pressures that have great potential for affecting the future structure of the IHS such as the President's proposed National Health Security Act, the Vice-President's National Performance Review and the increased interest among tribes to operate their own health programs.

The Report addressed five major relevant issue areas: Tribal Consultation for Long-term Restructuring, Impact of Administrative Cost Reductions, Options (management databases) Analysis, Inherent Federal Functions, and Employee Options were targeted as subgroup tasks to provide concentrated, comprehensive assessments in

regard to recommended restructuring processes, action items and policy positions.

The tribal representatives at this meeting expressed their concerns about the Report stating that all tribes' across the nation should review this document and provide comment prior to submittal to any policy entity, that the issue of the re-programming of IHS dollars to the tribes' has not been resolved, and made the request to IHS that the work groups should be lead by a tribal representative versus IHS.

James Floyd, Area Director Portland IHS, states; "this is a time of opportunity for the Tribes' to focus on services, and of supporting people's needs for the future versus wants for the past, by seriously thinking of the common good versus individual agendas.

Self-Governance will be discussed further at the NW Indian Health Board meeting in July.

Dental Clinic Digest Let's Talk Teeth...And More!

by Linda Mann RDH

Fluoride... A Rat Poison???

NO!! Many people are leery of using fluoride for various reasons. This month I want to share with you facts on fluoride. Fluoride is a vital nutrient your body needs for good health. Fluoride has been proven to be the single most effective weapon against cavities. How does fluoride protect your teeth? Fluoride combines with enamel making your teeth stronger and more resistant to decay. Where do we get fluoride?

Unfortunately the Grand Ronde and Willamina community water supply does not have naturally occurring fluoride in the water nor does it add any to it. (Sheridan's water supply is fluoridated) For this reason people living in the Grand Ronde area must receive their fluoride in other ways. There are a variety of ways you and your family can get the protection of fluoride.

1. Fluoride tablets or drops.

Fluoride supplements should be taken from birth until about age thirteen. This is the period of time that the baby teeth and the adult teeth are forming. Fluoride supplements must be prescribed by your dentist.

2. Fluoride mouthrinses.

Many schools (including the Grand Ronde Elementary school) provide weekly fluoride mouthrinsing. Studies show these types of programs can help reduce decay by about 30%.

3. Fluoride toothpaste.

Check and make sure the toothpaste you and your family is using has that ADA seal of acceptance for containing fluoride. Fluoride toothpastes should be used daily. Fluoride does not prevent tooth decay. It is important to brush, floss, and see your dentist regularly. However the use of fluoride can give you and your children the added step of protection you deserve.

SEE YOU AT THE POW-WOW!!!

For the first time in the history of the Grand Ronde POW-WOW, the Tribal Dental Clinic will be sponsoring a dental awareness booth. We have puppet shows planned for the kids. "Consumer's Choice" events for the adults, and dental screenings will be offered to all who wish to receive one. Please stop by and say "Hi", we look forward to meeting you.

Please note.... There will be no Emergency Walk-in Clinic August 8 thru 12; hygiene care will continue to be provided. Questions? Call Lydia at (503)879-2020.



TRIBAL FAMILY ACTION PROGRAM

The Tribal Family Action Program is expanding and changes are occurring that the staff would like to make Tribal members aware of. We'll publish a series of articles on it beginning with who works in this program;

Theron Ruiz-Treatment Coord.

Mychal Childers-Caseworker

Darrel Kipp-Caseworker

Joann Mercier-Caseworker

Carmen Mercier-JOBS Coord.

John Fraser-Foster Care Coord.

Pam Warren-TFAP Secretary

Office Number: 503-879-2034 or toll free 1-800-775-0095.

Tribe will assume BIA transition

The Grand Ronde Tribe beginning October 1, 1994 will be assuming the Bureau of Indian Affairs GA Program that serves the Grand Ronde Tribal members. The GA program will incur some changes in its operations; checks will be processed by the Tribe and the Tribe will add the GA Tribal Work Experience Program no offered by Siletz BIA. It's envisioned that the GA program will become part of the Human Services Division integrated service plan. Through the integrated approach participants will have greater access to other tribal program resources. Current clients of the program will be notified by the Siletz BIA Agency of the transition. In the *Human Services Division, 503-879-2051 or 879-2003.*

Employment and Training

Tribal AFS Jobs

Are you eligible for the Tribal Jobs Program?

If you are a tribal member who has applied or are receiving AFDC assistance, and if you live in the tribal six county service area, you may be eligible to participate in the JOBS program.

To become a participant, tell you AFDC Caseworker that you are a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe and that you would like to participate in the Tribal AFS JOBS program. Your Caseworker will then notify us.

Finding the right job takes time:

The Tribal JOBS program will assist you in getting the following types of help:

- * Education Assistance High School/GED
- * Basic and Remedial education to provide individuals with basic literacy level
- * Job skills training: vocational training
- * Job readiness: Lifeskills Ed.
- * Job development and placement
- * Referrals: To JTPA

Contact: For more information on the JOBS program contact Carmen Mercier at 1-800-775-0095 or 503-879-2034.

Summer fun and safety are a must

School is out and you're ready for play and fun. I would like to take this time to remind you of some safety pointers so that you may prevent some accidents and injuries.

WATER SAFETY: Always swim with a buddy-swim where there is a lifeguard and obey him/her and the rules. Never bring sharp objects or glass into the water. Always wear a life preserver in a boat.

BICYCLE SAFETY: Always wear a helmet. Signal before turning. Use a bicycle basket to carry things in. Obey traffic signs. Ride single file. If using a water bottle be sure it is easy to reach.

POISON SAFETY: Recognize and stay away from detergents and cleaners. Avoid chewing on plants and unknown berries. Don't drink water from creeks and lakes. Stay away from hazardous materials.

HOME SAFETY: Keep front door shut to strangers. If the phone rings take messages and never say you are alone. Don't play with matches. If you hear a smoke detector go outside. Practice family fire drills. If your clothes catch on fire do the stop, drop and roll. Don't use stove or electrical appliances without an adult present. Never take medications unless, a trusted adult gives them to you. Use your seat belt when in an automobile. Learn how to dial 911 in an emergency.

REMEMBER: when you are at a family gathering to be sure and let your parents know where you are at all times. Help watch younger children. Always tell an adult if something is wrong. Have a great summer and remember the safety pointers!

Contract Health news

The Contract Health Services Department is pleased to announce that Peggy Biery delivered a happy, healthy baby boy, Dreyvan Thomas Biery, July 5, 1994. Peggy will be out of the office for a few months getting acquainted with her new baby. While Peggyl is on leave, we are pleased to have Yvonne Hoopingarner filling in for her. Yvonne will be helping CHS by taking phone calls and assisting with clerical duties. So you may, from time to time, speak to Yvonne when you call CHS, please feel free to leave your messages with her and one of the CHS Specialist will call you back.

REMINDER: If you have questions concerning the Oregon Health Plan, please direct them to Barbara, Jackie, Teri, or Mary in the Health Department. The Telephone number 1-800-775-0095 or 503-879-2000.