

Sovereignty Taking Care of Our Own

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**Who Will Take Care of Our
Families?**

Background

- EBCI has relied on county partners for all Social Welfare programs for over 30 years
- Tribal members had to rely on county agencies to access services for child protection, adult protection, income eligibility programs
- EBCI had started analyzing the option of administration of these programs as early as 2009

The Story- We can't tell the story without telling all of the story...

- Catalyst for change
- Aubrey Littlejohn
- June 10, 2011



Re-Writing the Story

- Place values on our ways, culture, and way of life
- Stop looking to the outside for ALL of the answers
- Look within our own community
- Rely on our competencies
- Create our model
- Get over the “be-like” factor

Our Story = Population Health



Health Disparities

- Life expectancy that is 4.4 years less than the U.S. all races population
- Leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, injury, diabetes
- 50% of the Cherokee adult population has a chronic health condition of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, or heart disease
- Chronic diseases greatest threat to health in the 21st century



Problems Facing American Indian Children and Families



- The third highest rate of **victimization** at 11.6 per 1,000 children of the same race or ethnicity.(
- Highest rate of **poverty** of any other racial group in the nation (27.3%, twice the national poverty rate)



- Of the 405,000 American Indian children in the United States today, 28,000 (or 7%) are thought to be at risk for abuse and/or neglect each year
- 95% of these cases are substance abuse related
- In 2006, **suicide** was the leading cause of death for AI/AN males ages 10-14.
- For AI/AN young adults ages 15 to 24, one-fifth of them died by suicide in that same year
- Increased risk of mental health disorders, alcohol use disorders, and gang involvement

- Almost 10,000 American Indian children are currently in foster homes or other out-of-home care situations
- In addition, even after the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act, more than 50,000 Indian children live away from their cultural roots, as adoptees in non-Indian families

Population Health = Healthy Families



Preservation of our culture starts with protection of our most precious resources—
Cherokee children and



The Design

Safe, Stable, Nurturing,
and Self-Sustaining
Families



- Accountable
- Must enrich the lives of individuals,
- Better organizations and communities
- Create a more just and caring environment
- Best-practice
- Evidence-based
- Must have an organizational foundation by which to base our principles



Mission

HONORING our Cherokee community by PROVIDING excellent care, PROMOTING health and SERVING families in a culturally respectful way

Vision

Seven generations of wellness with families strong in mind, body, and spirit



PROVIDE

*

PROMOTE

*

SERVE *

Pre-Operations

- Implemented organizational Culture of Servant Leadership
- 638 contract of Federal IV-B Program (prevent and protect the welfare of children)
- Secured Federal IV-E Planning Grant- the 7th Tribe in the Nation to receive IV-E funding
- Recruitment
- Infrastructure



- Developed policies, procedures, and workflows
- Finalized necessary agreements and contracts
- Initiated appropriate training
- Drafted and approved corresponding Tribal codes



- Marketing and Branding
- Spearheaded a new Program Integrity unit within PHHS to ensure compliance to all Tribal, State, and federal laws as required



The Steps - Legislation

- May, 2014 Senate Bill 744, EBCI Assumption by Tribe of Various Human Services
- June 18, 2015 House Bill 97, Require transfer of certain services to EBCI



- House Bill 817, June 29, 2016, Enacting uniform adult guardianship and protective proceedings jurisdiction
- July 1, 2016, House Bill 1030, Revise report date/EBCI assumption of services



What New Programs Have We Assumed?

- Child Welfare and Family Safety services
- Adult Guardianship and Adult Protective services
- Low Income Energy Assistance
- Tribal Foods Distribution (commodities)



Programs that support Families

- Nurse Family Partnership
 - Transitional Housing
 - Senior Services
 - Child Care Services
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- Domestic Violence and Shelter
 - Juvenile Services
 - Family Support Services



Public Health and Human Services

- Full integration of public health and human services
- 18 programs
- 28 functions
- 300 employees
- Servant Leadership culture
- Integrated Family Service Model
- Behavioral Health works in Tandem
- Public Health Services



FAMILY SAFETY PROGRAM UNITS

1. Child Safety Assurance
2. Family Integrity Preservation
3. Permanency Planning
4. Off Boundary ICWA
5. Resource Family Development
6. Caregiver Support
7. Safe Babies
8. Adult Services
9. Transitional Housing
10. Office Support



Foster Care

- 11 Licensed foster homes
- 3 families in process (completing training)
- 3 new families starting classes



Custody Cases

- 50 children in custody
- 28 of these placed with relatives
- 3 placed in group homes
- 2 placed in therapeutic group homes
- 3 placed in therapeutic foster care
- 3 placed in EBCI licensed foster homes
- 1 placed in kinship guardianship
- 21 of these cases have been adjudicated

Adoptions

- 1 private adoption under new Tribal Code
- 1 adoption facilitated through Family Safety



Reports

- 750 Tribal children served
- 850 reports received
- Average of 77 families served each month
- Average 80 child maltreatment reports per month



Indian Child Welfare

- Receive an average of 1020 ICWA notices each month
- 48 interventions involving 81 children



Safe Babies

- 20 families served
- Total of 34 children served

Transitional Housing

- 23 families

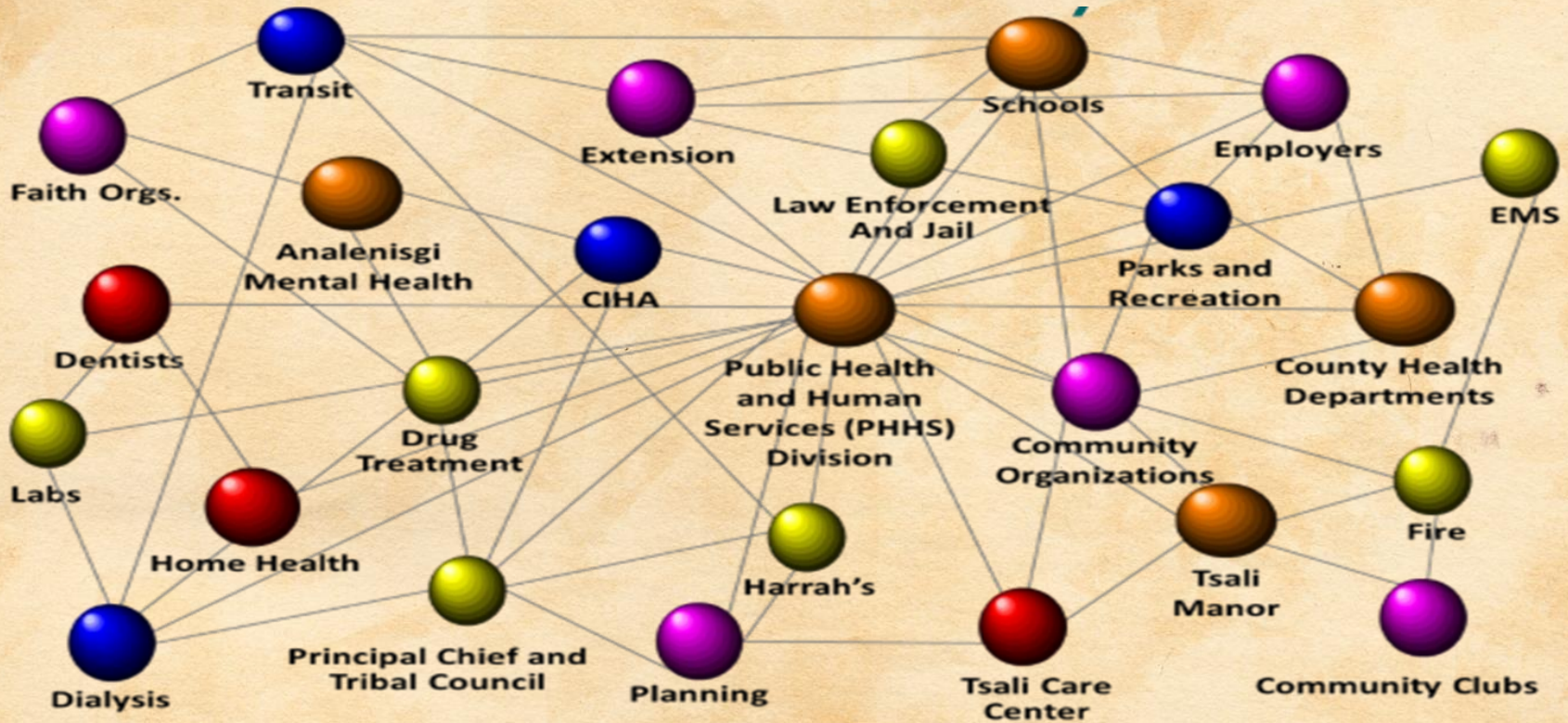


Adult Protection

- Case management for 32 adults



Community in Partnership



Tribal Health Improvement Plan

“A long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems on the basis of the results of community health assessment activities”

1. Diabetes
2. Depression
3. Substance Abuse



Increased Access = Decreased Disparities

- Increased Access with new Cherokee Hospital
- CIHA Patient-Centered Medical Home
- Primary Care Teams
- Expanded Services in Primary Care
- Behavioral Health Expansion
- Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Facility
- Detox and Stabilization Unit

Next?



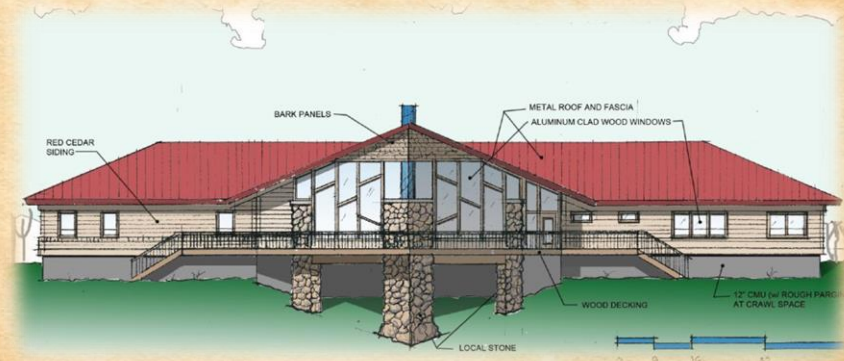
Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority



Big Cove Head Start Facility



New Snowbird Senior Center



New Substance Abuse Rehab Facility, Snowbird

Population Health is like an intricately woven basket; if the community and the health system are woven together, **SUCCESS** is inevitable!



“There are some that say that a Tribe is not truly sovereign unless we have the desire and the ability to take care of our own, and that’s exactly what we’re doing here today.”

Principal Chief Patrick H. Lambert



Questions

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