

Developing a Roadmap to Improvement through the NPHPSP

Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation (CN) provides public health services to more than 163,000 citizens of a 14 county tribal jurisdiction service area in northeast Oklahoma. Through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII), CN completed the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) state public health system assessment and conducted a tribal public health assessment. The Tribe self-rated the activities they provide related to delivering the ten Essential Public Health Services (EPHS).



Based on the assessment results, CN found that they are serving their community well in the deliver of services related to mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems (EPHS 4) and linking people to needed personal health services and assuring the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable (EPHS 7). Also based on the results, CN found that they wanted to improve services to their community around monitoring health status to identify community health problems (EPHS 1) and informing, educating, and empowering people about health services (EPHS 3).

From Data to Action

CN used the assessment results to plan for future public health initiatives and activities; these results have helped CN identify priority areas for consideration during the tribal public health strategic planning process. Based on the assessment results, CN has initiated multiple projects to improve EPHS delivery:

- *Epidemiology and Surveillance Division (EPHS 1 and EPHS 2)* - CN is developing an epidemiology and surveillance division to produce, collect, and publish resident specific health data. The new division would allow CN to generate their own health data and conduct investigations into health problems rather than relying on outside resources.
- *Digital Story Telling (EPHS 3)* - CN is developing a series of digital storytelling videos to offer additional programs that inform, educate, and empower the Cherokee people about current health issues. The videos combine CN health information with the Cherokee tradition of oral storytelling.
- *Tribal Health Improvement Planning (EPHS 5)* - CN plans to use the assessment results to guide the development of strategic priority areas and support tribal health improvement planning.

Out of all the grants we have received in the 22 years I've worked at Cherokee Nation, NPHII has had the largest impact on public health infrastructure improvement by funding technical assistance and other learning opportunities.

**Lisa Pivec, Cherokee Nation
Community Health Promotion Director**

Success Factors

- Collaboration among clinical and preventative health staff helped break down silos
- Strong leadership support and a dedicated workforce

Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)

1. *Monitor health status to identify community health problems*
2. *Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community*
3. *Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues*
4. *Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems*
5. *Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts*
6. *Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety*
7. *Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable*
8. *Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce*
9. *Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services*
10. *Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems*

Related Links and Resources

- 7 Cherokee Nation Health Nation - <http://healthynation.cherokee.org>
- 7 NPHII Overview - www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/nphii
- 7 NPHPSP Overview - www.cdc.gov/nphpsp
- 7 Ten Essential Public Health Services - www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/EssentialServices
- 7 NPHPSP Online Resource Center - www.phf.org/nphpsp

About NPHPSP and Public Health Foundation (PHF)

The NPHPSP is a national initiative that has developed a set of standardized goals for state and local public health systems and boards of health. PHF administers the NPHPSP Data Reporting Page, the Online Resource Center, and provides technical assistance on performance management, quality improvement, and workforce development.

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NPHPSP

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