



IHS Eagle Butte Health Center Dedication

Eagle Butte, S.D.

August 26, 2011

by

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.PH.

Director, Indian Health Service

Good morning, and thank you for the invitation to speak today. As Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I can't think of a more inspiring and rewarding event to attend than the dedication of a new state-of-the-art health center to serve a tribal community.

This beautiful and impressive structure was built by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. We are all so proud of your dedication and skill in completing this building. This project was designated as a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Hallmark Project among American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, which truly indicates its success.

We at the IHS and HHS are proud to be your partners. This partnership is an example of how our agency priority to renew and strengthen our partnership with Tribes can truly make a difference. This project also supports our agency priority to improve the quality of and access to care. New hospitals and clinics help us in our quest to provide the very best health care for our Native people. I firmly believe each new facility moves us closer to our shared mission of raising the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

We are grateful for the \$109 million in IHS and ARRA funding to replace the previous 50-year-old facility. I am so pleased that Senator Johnson is here and for his advocacy for this facility. I am also pleased to have the House Congressional Delegation here with us today. Thank you to the House Appropriations Subcommittee members, including their Chairman Mike Simpson, Representative Tom Cole, and Representative Betty McCollum for the role they played in making this facility construction possible.

Modern, spacious, and culturally appropriate health facilities will help improve the quality of and access to care in the Indian health system. Both our patients and health care professionals appreciate and benefit from state-of-the-art health equipment and services. We at the IHS look forward to serving the Cheyenne River patients and community for many years to come in this impressive new facility.

In addition to providing outstanding medical care, your new health and wellness center will increase the quality of life for the members of the Cheyenne River community. Because the new 138,293 square-foot building is nearly triple the size of the previous facility, patients will benefit from new and expanded services, staffing, and equipment. I am impressed with the expanded health and wellness services that are now available, such as the new CT scan. And the savings from the previously outsourced CT scan services can be used to provide more patient care specialty services. There are many other benefits as well; for instance:

- More efficient services will be provided to trauma patients, who now will not have to wait to be transported to another distant facility.
- New staffing of 257 full-time employees will result in a 20% increase in medical staff, with a resulting increase in services to more patients and an increase in revenue.
- New laboratory services will reduce “send outs” and increase revenue generation.
- The new facilities will nearly double the number of rooms to a total of 21 rooms with two procedure rooms.
- The emergency room will have seven exam rooms, one isolation room, and three procedure rooms. Patients will be able to be triaged and flow through the system in a more efficient manner.
- The addition of a full-time/permanent safety officer will help ensure that staff and patients are in a facility that is safe.
- New systems such as infant security and fire protection will further help to ensure a safe environment for patients and staff.
- Housing will help us with recruitment and retention and to have more high-quality providers serving this community.

Many dedicated people, both tribal and IHS, worked diligently to create this new health center, which meets the nation’s highest energy efficiency standards. The fact that it was designed and constructed so quickly is quite an achievement. All of the people who helped plan, support, and construct this facility must certainly feel proud as they look at this new, large, modern building and see a better and brighter future.

Thank you again to the congressional delegation for attending today and for their support of the IHS. And thank you to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for your partnership in making this day possible.

It has been my honor to be here at this historic occasion for the Cheyenne River community. This facility and the expanded health care services that come with it have long been needed and anticipated by this community. I know they will make a real difference by improving the health and well being of this community for years to come.

I am grateful to all who made this day possible and for the opportunity to take a few moments today to celebrate this impressive accomplishment. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication, and for serving as an example of what can be achieved through the power of partnership and cooperation. This is further proof that we can change and improve the IHS.

This new facility will help us provide the high-quality and accessible health care that our patients deserve. Thank you and congratulations.