Collaboration between G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Improving Access to VA Healthcare for Native American Veterans through Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) in Rural Communities

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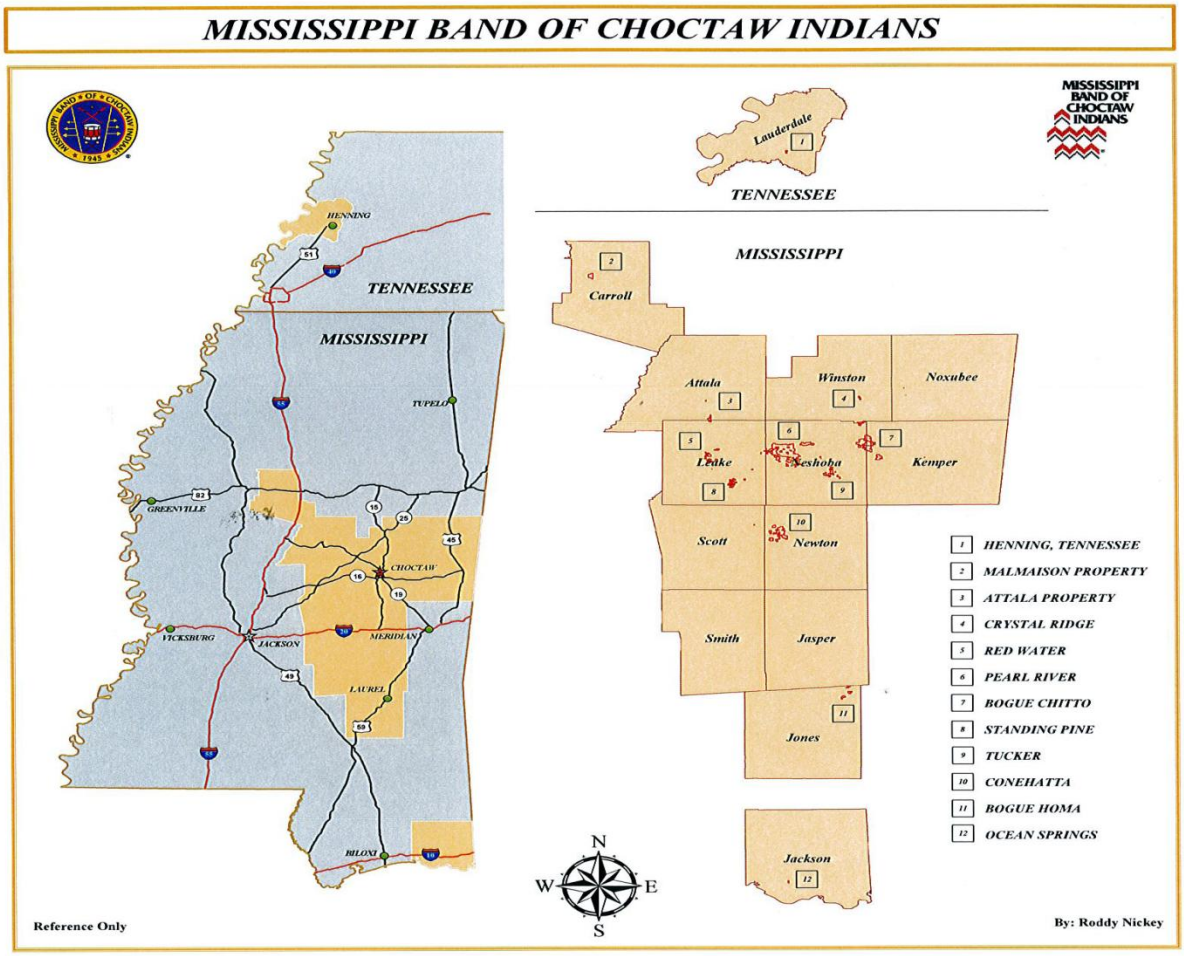
Objectives

- Discuss partnership between HBPC and Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI).
- Discuss the importance of outreach education for Choctaw Veterans.
- Discuss the benefits that our HBPC team has gained from our partnership.

An Idea was Begun

- We have the MBCI Reservation lands within our VA primary service area.
- We had no Native American Veterans in our HBPC program.

Where are Choctaw Veterans?



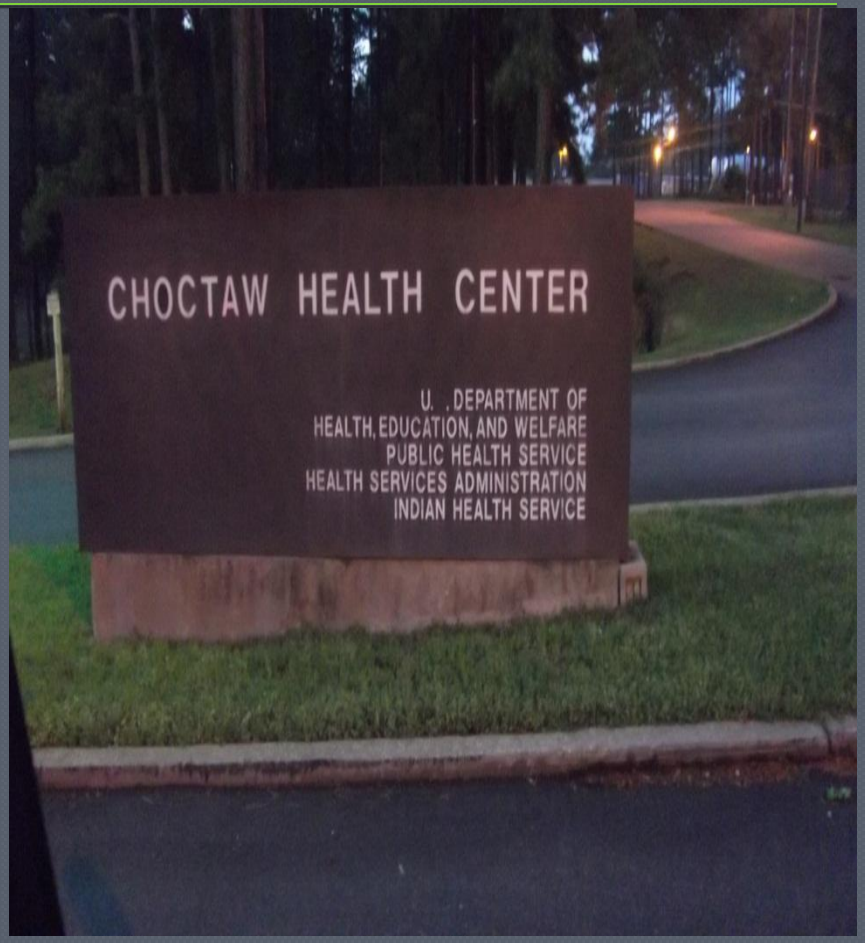
Planning Objectives

- Improve communication/network between VA and Native American Veterans and Tribal Leaders.
- Promote knowledge regarding services offered via VA medical center and HBPC.
- Build Trust and improve Veteran/family knowledge of health promotion.
- Promote safety in the home (medication, home/fire, prevention of injury, emergency preparedness).
- Improve access to care and benefits.

Goal of Native American Outreach: Improve access to and quality of healthcare for Choctaw Veterans, which will improve quality of life for Veterans, families, and communities

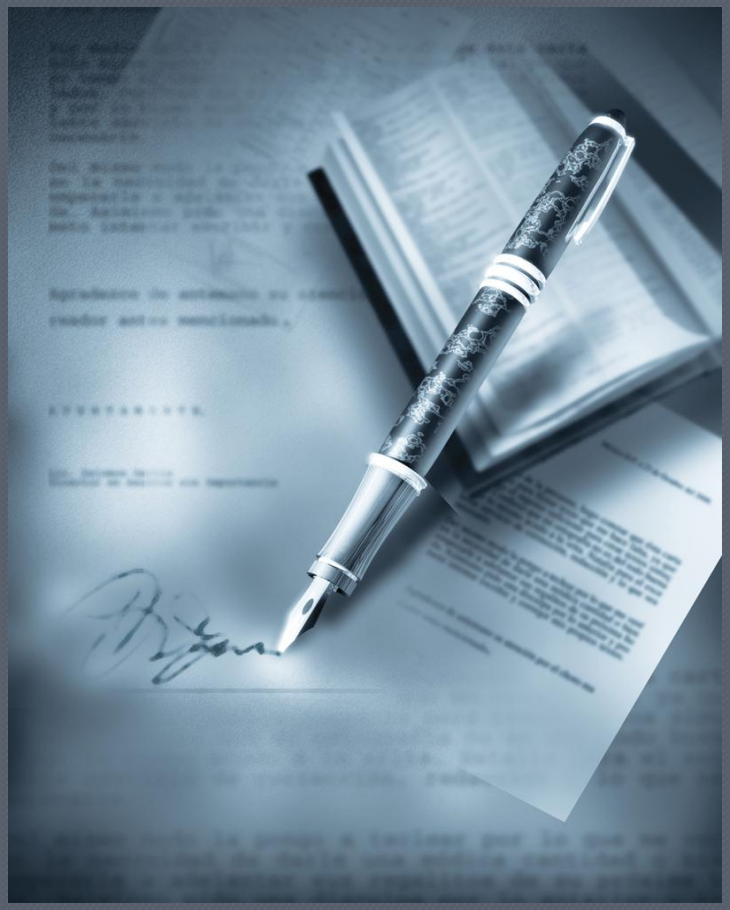
Partnership

- Partnering our Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Interdisciplinary Team with Choctaw Health Services provides excellent opportunities for community based preventive primary care for Veterans.



Implementation

- Received funding for expanding HBPC services for Native American Veterans .
- Collaboration with Indian Health Service (IHS).
- Letter of Agreement - MOU



Outreach

- Choctaw Indian Fair and Stickball Game Outreach
- Veteran's Day POW WOW and parade
- Choctaw Tribal Women's Health Fair
- Flu Shot Outreaches
- Veterans Service Officer Benefits Outreach

Community Education

- Presentation at Elderly Nutrition Center.
- Presentation at American Legion Meeting at Conehatta Community.

Opportunities

- HBPC team has been invited to participate with Choctaw Health Center Community Health Staff in their flu shot drive.
- Continued participation with Choctaw Women's Health Fair.

Why is HBPC Important?

Services

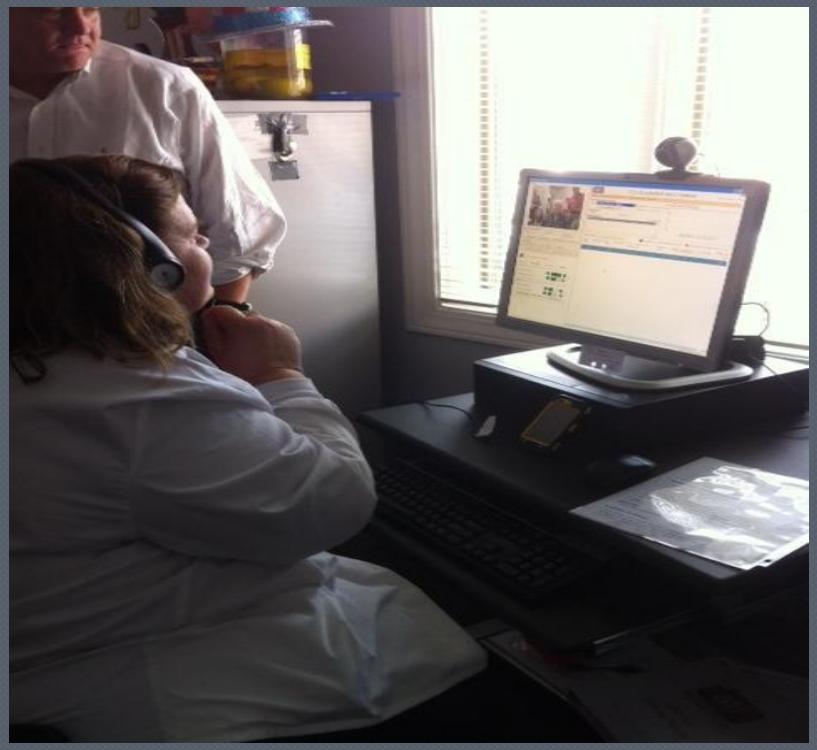
- Home Based Primary Care provides primary care in the home with an interdisciplinary team which provides:
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Nurses
  - Pharmacists
  - Dietician
  - Physical Therapist
  - Social Workers
  - Psychologist
  - Chaplain services

Nurse Practitioners/Nurses

- Nurse Practitioners provide primary care and coordinate services within the home setting.
- Monitor Veteran's vital signs, lab work, and immunizations.
- Collaborate with private offices, home health care, and other healthcare facilities.

Technology

- Health Buddy
- CVT Monitoring



HBPC Pharmacist

- Review Veteran's medication initially, every 3 months, and annually for all Veterans enrolled in HBPC.
- Review Veteran's medication profiles if any special concerns such as fall risk or dysphagia.
- Make home visits or phone consultations for Veteran and family teaching about medications.

HBPC Dietician

- Assess all HBPC Veterans' diets.
- Provides dietary education and teaching materials for each HBPC Veteran annually and as needed.
- Provides recommendations regarding dietary supplements for Veterans.

HBPC Physical Therapist

- HBPC Physical therapist makes visits to Veterans home to make recommendations about equipment and equipment safety.
- Orders equipment that is customized for our Veterans in their community.
- Provides education about home safety, use of therapy equipment, and prevention of falls.

HBPC Social Work

- Coordinates resources for Veterans.
- Makes home visits for evaluation of Veterans and families in the home.
- Coordinates with caregiver program and medical foster home program staff.

HBPC Psychologist

- HBPC Psychologist makes home visits for evaluation and follow up for psychological problems for Veterans.
- Provides teaching about coping with caregiver strain and dealing with the care of Veterans.
- Provides cognitive evaluations for Veterans.

HBPC Chaplain

- Serves as liaison between community religious resources.
- Provides spiritual guidance as needed.
- Available for end of life care for Veterans and their families.

Lessons Learned

- Partnering with Choctaw Health Center staff has strengthened our Home Based Primary Care Outreach for our Native American Veterans by opening avenues of communication to work with Choctaw Health Center staff for our Veterans and their communities.

Lessons Learned

- Outreach activities strengthened our team and our teaching strategies for our Native American Veterans by providing increased knowledge of our Native American culture.

Outcomes

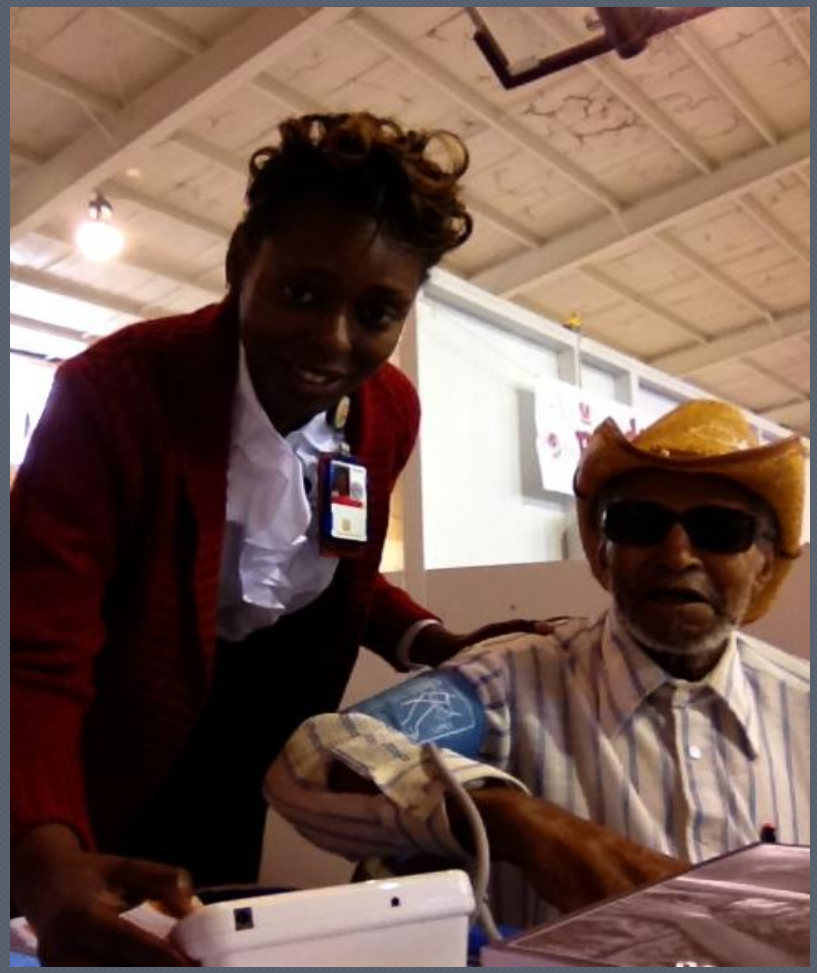
Partnerships:

- Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) monitoring training with Choctaw Health Center staff.
- Partnership With Mississippi Insurance Commission and Mississippi State Firemarshall's office for installation of free smoke detectors.
- Partnering with Choctaw Health Center staff for flu shot drive at Veteran's Day POW WOW.

Outcomes

Community Education:

- By partnering with the community health office at Choctaw Health Center, we were also invited to other health education fairs and activities which are used for educational outreach.

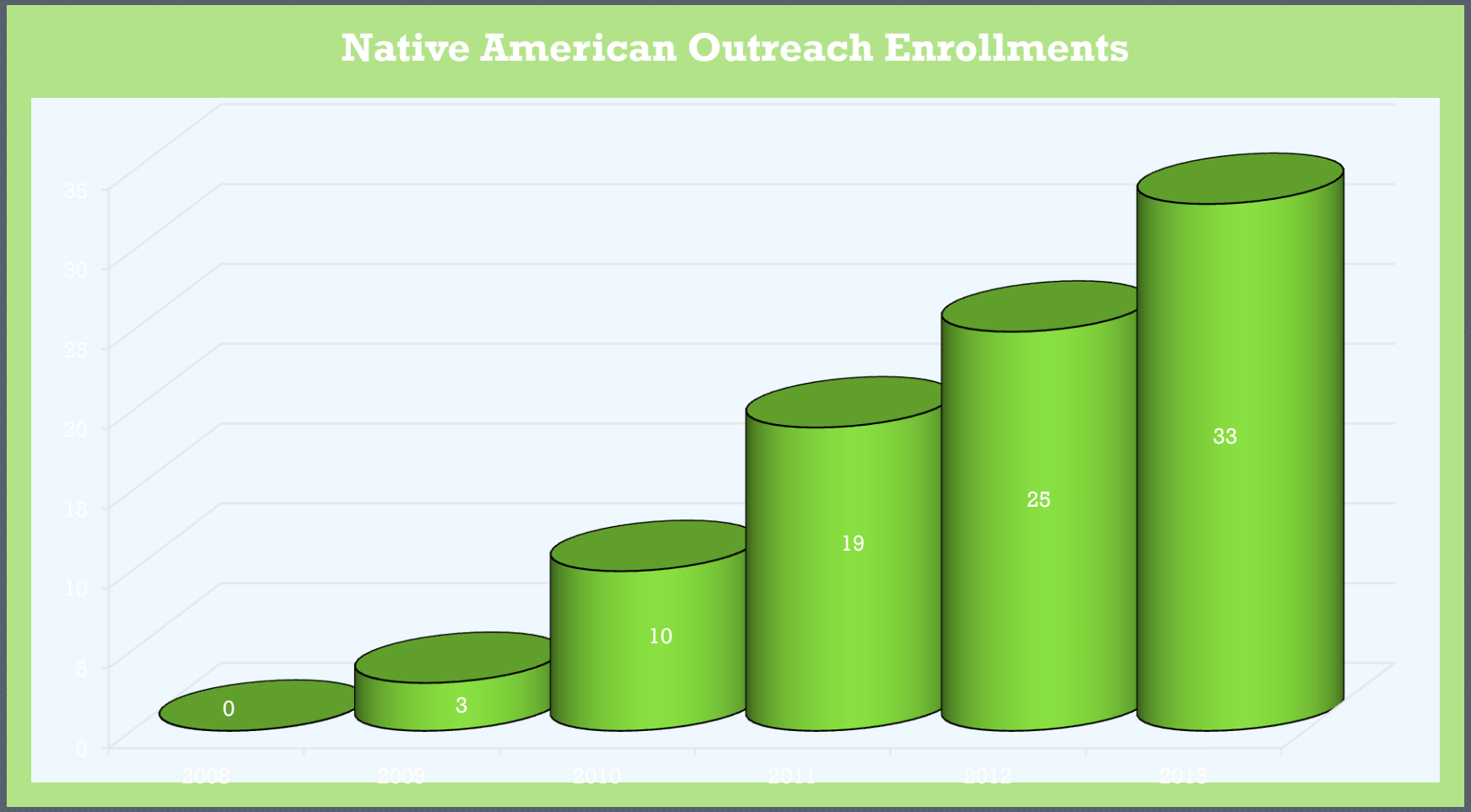


Outcomes

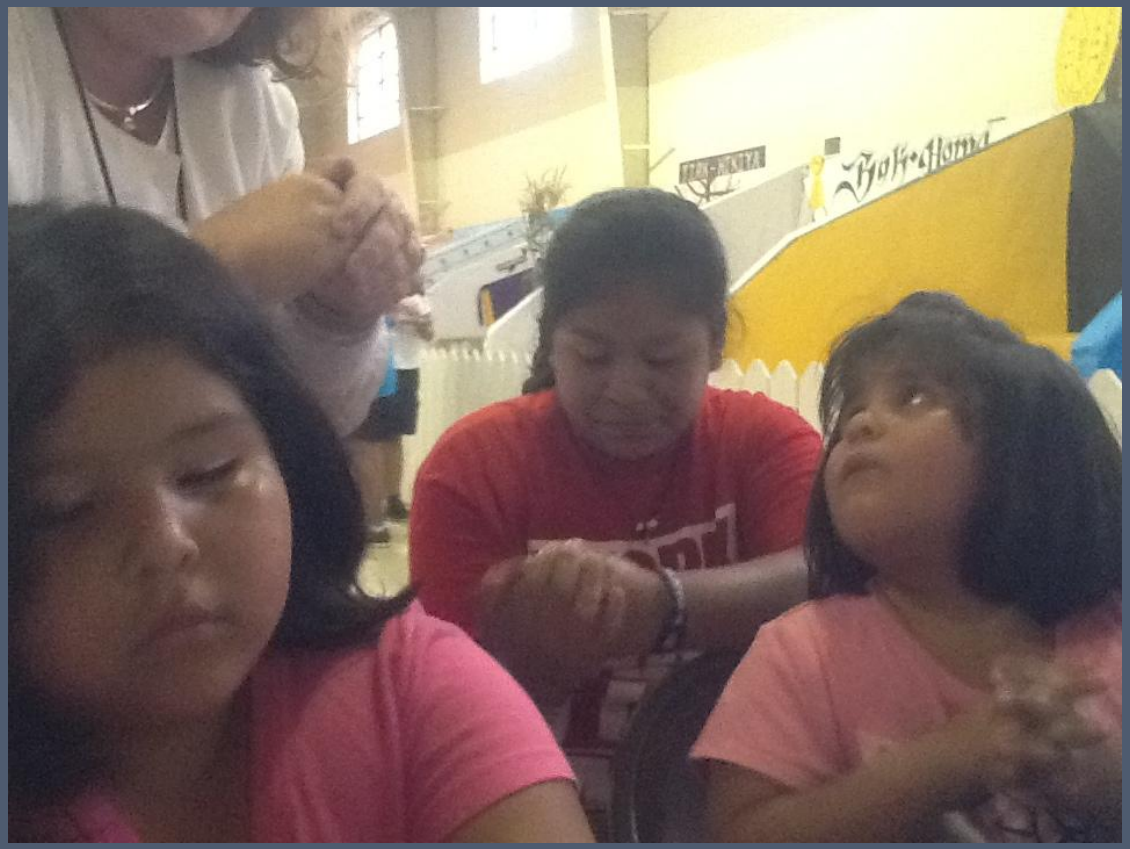
Staff Education:

- Clinical Video Telehealth training with Choctaw Health Center staff.
- Implemented a Palliative Care Training Program.
- ACLS training

Outcomes


Native American Outreach Enrollments
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
0
3
10
19
25
33
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013

Outcomes



- Rural health project has been successful as evidenced by:
  - Collaboration with IHS.
  - Enrollment of Native American Veterans in HBPC.
  - Number of outreach activities attended.
  - Ability to provide quality care for our Veterans.

Questions?