



Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

LTSS Research:
Nursing Home Facility Inventory
Nursing Homes in Indian Country

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Background

By the year 2030, there will be 2.5 times as many American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) elders as there were in 2012.¹ Health issues common among AI/ANs—poor nutrition, obesity, substance use disorders, violence, and injuries—combined with the delayed health care access many elder AI/ANs face due to geographic isolation, poverty, and insurance issues often result in many AI/AN elders enduring deteriorating health conditions while seeking care during later stages of disease.² AI/AN elders regularly grapple with issues of chronic disease and comorbidity that require 24-hour care.³ Unfortunately, nursing home facilities that provide this type of skilled care are generally located great distances from tribal lands, forcing AI/AN elders to leave their families and homes to receive the care they need. These facilities also often lack culturally sensitive tools and protocols to use when working with elder AI/ANs and their families. Combined, these factors contribute to high rates of elder loneliness, alienation, and isolation, especially if the elder does not speak English.⁴

Many tribes are working to keep their elders at home through the development of long-term care facilities that benefit their community by keeping elders in the community. Currently more than a dozen of these nursing home facilities (NHF) are operating in Indian Country, all of which are Medicaid- or Medicare-certified. The Medicare Nursing Home Compare (MNHC) website⁵ lists each tribally operated nursing home, and provides stakeholders with the ability to review how NHFs meet regulations to provide care to the community. Additionally, the Nursing Home Education Collaborative—a newly established platform for tribal nursing homes—aims to develop best practices and build nationwide links between identified stakeholders to assist these NHFs to overcome existing barriers to care. This report provides an overview of established NHFs operating in Indian Country and highlights how the Nursing Home Education Collaborative strives to benefit tribal nursing homes moving forward.

Nursing Home Facilities in Indian Country

Currently, there are 16 established, tribally operated NHFs in the United States—10 of which have been in operation for more than 20 years. A new home in Nebraska owned by the Oglala Sioux Tribe is scheduled to open in early 2016. Table I lists each nursing home by state. Over half of the tribally operated NHFs have a bed capacity at or under 50 beds, and two NHFs (the

¹ Kauffman & Associates 2016

² Kitzes 2002; Arenella et al. 2010; Marr, Kitzes, Neale, and Wolfe 2012; Portman and Garret 2006; National Cancer Institute 2011

³ Finke, Bowannie, and Kitzes 2004; Hampton 2005; Indian Health Service 2006; Kitzes 2003; Arenella et al. 2010

⁴ Branch 2010

⁵ <http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare>

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Choctaw Residential Center in Mississippi and the Caring House in Arizona) have a capacity of 100 or more beds. The Oglala Sioux Nursing Home in Nebraska will have 60 beds.

Two NHF's are in discussion or development phases: the Native Veterans Nursing Home in Arizona and the Edith Kassanavoid Gordon Assisted Living Center in Oklahoma. Appendix A, Tribally Operated Nursing Home Facilities, lists all of the tribally operated NHF's in Indian Country, along with detailed information about each facility.

Table I. NHF's in the United States by State

State	Nursing Home
Alaska	Utuqqanaat Inaat, Quyanna Care Center, and Yukon Kuskokwim Elder's Home
Arizona	Caring House, Chinle Nursing Home, and Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Center
Minnesota	Jourdain/Perpich Extended Care Center
Mississippi	Choctaw Residential Center
Montana	Blackfeet Care Center
Nebraska	Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center, and Oglala Sioux Nursing Home
New Mexico	Laguna Rainbow Nursing Facility
North Carolina	Tsali Care Center
South Dakota	White River Health Care Center
Washington	Colville Tribal Convalescent Center
Wisconsin	Anna John Resident Centered Care Community
Wyoming	Morning Star Care Center

Medicare Nursing Home Compare

In 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the MNHC website to provide nursing home comparisons for the public. The MNHC website only lists NHF's that are Medicare- or Medicaid-certified and provide skilled care, such as nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.

The comparisons are based on CMS' Five-Star Nursing Home Quality Rating System. The rating system "assigns each nursing home an overall rating and three component ratings for health inspections, staffing, and quality measures, based on the extent to which the nursing home meets CMS' quality standards and other measures."⁶ Each rating can range from one to

⁶ U.S. Government Accountability Office 2012, p. 1

five stars, five stars indicating a high quality of care and three indicating “average” quality of care.⁷ Each nursing home identified on the MNHC has an overall rating, lists penalties within the past 3 years, and provides a rating per the following categories:

- Health and fire-safety inspections are annual inspections conducted by the state to ensure NHFs meet Congressional requirements on measures of nutrition and diet, pharmacy services, and resident rights, to name a few;
- The NHF staffing category assesses the number of NHF staff (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, certified nursing assistant, and physical therapist) and the amount of staff availability (measured in hours) per NHF resident;
- Quality measures that analyze the Minimum Data Set (MDS), an annual assessment completed by NHFs detailing residents’ health, physical functioning, mental statuses, and general well-being.

The MNHC includes the 16 tribally operated nursing homes. Appendix B, NHF Five-Star Rating Summary Table, summarizes the ratings for each tribally operated NHF, finding that:

- Four NHFs received a four-star overall rating, showing an increase of two NHFs that received four-star ratings last year,
- One NHF received a three-star overall rating,
- Eight NHFs received two-star overall rating, and
- Three NHFs received one-star overall ratings.

In the Staffing category, 13 NHFs rate at or above average, with 4 NHFs receiving five stars. In the Health & Fire Safety Inspections and Quality Measures categories, three of the NHFs rated average. Eight NHFs scored at or above average for Quality Measures, with three NHFs receiving a five-star rating. Eight NHFs listed penalties, with two homes receiving penalties during 2015.⁸

⁷ The MNHC website notes that nursing home profile data comes from annual comprehensive inspections plus the previous 3 years’ complaint investigations, with comparisons to state and national averages for each category. Specifically, the data comes from CMS’ Health Inspection Database and the MDS. CMS’ Health Inspection database includes annual state NHF inspections and complaint investigations. The MDS assessment is completed by each Medicare- or Medicaid-certified NHF for each resident to aid the NHF’s development of individual care plans for residents. The MNHC website notes that NHFs provide all of the data, and that “nursing home inspectors review it, but don’t formally check it to ensure accuracy.”

⁸ According to the Medicare.gov Nursing Home Compare website, “penalties may be imposed on a nursing home when a serious deficiency is cited or if the nursing home fails to correct a deficiency for a long period of time.” The nature of penalties is not provided.

Tribal Nursing Home Education Collaborative

Background

The Tribal Nursing Home Education Collaborative (the Collaborative) is a platform for tribal nursing homes to establish best practices and to build nationwide links between identified stakeholders. The Collaborative provides an opportunity for tribal nursing homes to network, discuss best practices, promote evidence-based education, and provide trainings and quality assurance interventions and linkages. Tribal nursing homes work together toward a common goal of providing culturally appropriate care to the most valued population of Native elders and the disabled. These nursing homes provide excellent care and serve as community facilities to care for aging tribal members, delivering cultural assistance unavailable elsewhere. Kay Branch from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Debbie Dyjak from the Archie Hendricks Senior Skilled Nursing Facility in Arizona formally organized the Collaborative in October 2015, with an inaugural meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting hosted 25 attendees from tribal nursing homes across Indian Country. Attendees discussed the development of a planning document and next steps, focusing on the following areas:

- Workforce development
- Education
- Advocacy
- Funding opportunities
- Communication
- Regulatory relief

The Collaborative meets on a monthly basis, and has an identified steering committee. The Collaborative has a strong network that includes:

- Tribal nursing home administrators, nursing leadership, and board members
- Tribal assisted living facilities
- Cultural experts
- Banner Alzheimer's Institute
- University of Arizona's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program
- Federal programs like Quality Improvement Organizations, Administration on Community Living, Indian Health Service, and CMS

The Collaborative Progress

In 2010, Branch conducted a survey of tribal nursing homes to identify NHF service funding sources and services. Building from the first survey, Branch and Dyjak conducted a second survey in 2015. The results from the 2015 survey identified tribal nursing home successes, such as policy and staff development and dementia training provision. The survey also identified some nursing home challenges, such as a lack of understanding by regulators, money and

financing, and staff transportation. Nursing homes also identified training needs for staff that included quality assurance, particularly with the introduction of the new Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement process, career advancement for staff, customer service, and approaches to residents.⁹

In May and July 2015, Branch and Dyjak facilitated a two-part webinar series as part of CMS' long-term services and supports monthly webinar program.¹⁰ Each webinar focused on the challenges and best practices of tribal nursing homes. Six nursing homes participated in the webinar series: Utuqqanaat Inaat (Alaska), Yukon Kuskokwim Elder's Home (Alaska), Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Center (Arizona), Chinle Nursing Home (Arizona), Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center (Nebraska), and Morning Star Care Center (Wyoming). A second, two-part webinar series is scheduled for 2016.

In addition, the Collaborative is scheduled to present its ideas and practices on serving traditional foods in tribal nursing homes to the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Council on Aging in 2016.

The Collaborative offers a forum for stakeholders to communicate, collaborate, and educate each other and the public about the challenges facing tribal nursing homes and the innovative solutions developed to overcome them. Dyjak and Mellisa Heflin (from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium) are co-leading the Collaborative with the vision that Native elders will receive the best possible care in an environment that honors their culture, language, autonomy, and—ultimately—their health and well-being.

Nursing Home Facility Support and Development

Operation of a nursing home facility is a financially challenging endeavor, and obtaining the necessary certifications has been a long-standing barrier to tribal communities in the development of health care services and facilities culturally and financially. Thirteen of the tribally operated NHF's have existed for more than 10 years. Tracking changes that occur with each tribal NHF is important to understand how existing NHF's meet regulations while creating an environment that fits the needs of its community's elders. The induction of the Collaborative is an opportunity for existing NHF's to directly communicate with each other and establish best practices. These efforts help NHF's overcome existing barriers for tribes looking to keep elders in the community.

⁹ Branch and Dyjak 2016

¹⁰ <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/American-Indian-Alaska-Native/AIAN/LTSS-Technical-Assistance-Center/Webinars.html>

Appendix A

Tribally Operated Nursing Home Facilities

An asterisk () indicates NHFs that are in discussion and development phases*

Alaskan Region

Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Maniilaq Association	Utuqqanaat Inaat 436 Mission St. PO Box 510 Kotzebue, AK 99752	Valdeko Ivan Kreil, Administrator valdeko.kreil@maniilaq.org P: (907) 442-3321 F: (907) 442-7250	18 beds, 2011
Norton Sound Health Corporation	Quyanna Care Center 1100 Greg Kruschek Ave. PO Box 966 Nome, AK 99762	Angela Gorn, Administrator agorn@nshcorp.org P: (907) 443-3357 F: (907) 443-3368	18 beds, 1988
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	Yukon Kuskokwim Elder's Home 1100 Chief Eddie Hoffman Hwy. PO Box 528 Bethel, AK 99559	Gerald Hodges, Administrator gerald_hodges@ykhc.org P: (907) 543-6782 F: (907) 543-6780	18 beds, 2013

Northwestern Region

Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Blackfeet Nation	Blackfeet Care Center 728 S. Government Sq. PO Box 728 Browning, MT 59417	Martha Spotted Eagle, Administrator mytanagirl@yahoo.com P: (406) 338-2686 F: (406) 338-7779	47 beds, 1970

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Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Colville Tribal Convalescent Center 1 Convalescent Center Blvd. PO Box 150 Nespelem, WA 99155	Glenda Whitelaw, Administrator glenda.whitelaw@colvilletribes.com P: (509) 634-2878 F: (509) 634-2889	44 beds, 1981
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation	Morning Star Care Center 4 N. Fork Rd. PO Box 859 Fort Washakie, WY 82514	Cathy Keene, Director Tribal Health Programs esth.director@gmail.com P: (307) 332-6902 F: (307) 332-4279	45 beds, 1980

Southwestern Region

Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Gila River Indian Community	Caring House 510 S. Ocotillo Dr. Sacaton, AZ 85147	Christopher Daroczy, Administrator cdaroczy@gricc.org P: (520) 562-7400 F: (520) 562-7406	100 beds, 1992
Navajo Nation	Chinle Nursing Home 5755 E. Main St. PO Box 910 Chinle, AZ 86503	Wayne Claw, CEO wynclaw@yahoo.com P: (928) 674-5216 F: (928) 674-5218	79 beds, 1968
Navajo Nation	Native Veterans Nursing Home* Chinle, AZ	NA	NA

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Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Tohono O'odham Nation	Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Center Federal Rte. 15, Milepost 9 HC 01 Box 9100 Sells, AZ 85634	Lee Olitzky, Administrator lolitzky@toltc.org P: (520) 361-1803 F: (520) 361-3656	60 beds, 1998
Pueblo of Laguna	Laguna Rainbow Nursing Facility I-40 Exit 108 1/2 Mile South of S.R. 23 PO Box 490 Casa Blanca, NM 87007	Michael Banes, Administrator mbanes@lagunarainbow.org P: (505) 552-6034 F: (505) 552-7645	58 beds, 1981

Midwestern Region

Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Comanche Nation	Edith Kassanavoid Gordon Assisted Living Center* Lawton, OK	NA	NA
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Jourdain/ Perpich Extended Care Center 24856 Hospital Dr. PO Box 399 Red Lake, MN 56671	Gary Hjelmstad, Interim Administrator P: (218) 679-3400 F: (218) 679-3434	47 beds, 1984
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska	Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center 100 Indian Hills Dr. PO Box 250 Macy, NE 68039	Kourtney Williams, Administrator Kourtney.Williams@ihs.gov P: (402) 837-5381 F: (406) 837-4216	25 beds, NA
Oglala Sioux Tribe	Oglala Sioux Nursing Home Whiteclay, NE	NA	60 beds, <i>Open</i> 2016

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Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	White River Health Care Center 515 E 8Th St. PO Box 310 White River, SD 57579	Carol Gregg, Administrator wrhccbus@goldenwest.net P: (605) 259-3161 F: (605) 259-3106	52 beds, 1974
Oneida Nation	Anna John Resident Centered Care Community 2901 S. Overland Rd. PO Box 365 Oneida, WI 54155	David Larson, Administrator dlarson@oneidanation.org P: (920) 869-2797 F: (920) 869-3238	48 beds, 1978

Eastern Region

Tribal Affiliation	NHF Name and Address	Contact	Beds, Year Opened
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	Choctaw Residential Center 135 Hospital Cir. Philadelphia, MS 39350	Wendy Moran, Administrator wendymoran.crc11@yahoo.com P: (601) 656-2582 F: (601) 656-0670	120 beds, 1987
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Tsali Care Center 55 Echota Church Rd. Cherokee, NC 28719	David Hunt, Administrator davihunt@nc-chokeee.com P: (828) 554-6506 F: (828) 497-5347	72 beds, 1995

Appendix B

NHF Five-Star Rating Summary Table

NHF Name	Overall Rating 2015	Overall Rating 2016	Health & Fire Safety Inspections 2015	Health & Fire Safety Inspections 2016	Staffing 2015	Staffing 2016	Quality Measures 2015	Quality Measures 2016	Penalties (Actual #) 2015	Penalties (Actual #) 2016
Utuqqanaat Inaat (AK)	3	2	2	2	5	5	2	1	2	2
Quyanna Care Center (AK)	3	4	2	3	5	5	2	2	1	1
Yukon Kuskokwim Elder's Home (AK)	2	2	1	1	5	5	NA	3	1	2
Blackfeet Care Center (MT)	3	2	2	1	5	4	3	3	0	1
Colville Tribal Convalescent Center (WA)	1	2	1	2	3	2	4	3	0	2
Morning Star Care Center (WY)	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	0	0
Caring House (AZ)	1	2	1	1	5	4	1	2	0	1
Chinle Nursing Home (AZ)	1	2	1	1	3	4	3	2	1	2
Archie Hendricks, Sr. Skilled Nursing Center (AZ)	4	4	2	2	5	4	5	5	0	0
Laguna Rainbow Nursing Facility (NM)	3	4	2	0	3	4	5	5	0	0
Jourdain/Perpich Extended Care Center (MN)	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	0	2
Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center (NE)	3	3	2	3	5	2	2	2	0	0
White River Health Care Center (SD)	2	1	1	1	3	1	5	4	0	0
Anna John Resident Centered Care Community (WI)	4	4	3	3	4	4	2	3	0	0
Choctaw Residential Center (MS)	2	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	0	0
Tsali Care Center (NC)	2	2	1	1	5	5	3	4	0	0

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