# INMED Tribal Advisory Board

# Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2020

1. Welcome

Dr. Warne, INMED Director, welcomed all participants on the Zoom meeting/call.

1. Call to order

The meeting convened as a regular meeting of the INMED Tribal Advisory Board at 10:00 am CDT time on April 17, 2020 via Zoom conference.

1. Roll call

Erica Gunville conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Twila Martin Kekahabah (Charter), James Iron Shell (Vice-Chair), LeeAnna Muzquiz (Secretary), David “Tally” Plume, Linae Big Fire, Courtney Souvannasacd, Audrey German, Ryman LaBeau, LeeAnn Bruised Head, Diane LaPointe, Don Warne, Erica Gunville, Siobhan Wescott, Nicole Redvers, Susan Holden, Brittany Belgarde, Kathleen Fredericks, Lynn Mad Plume, Donis Drappeau, Danyelle Kenyon, Yvette La Pierre, Melanie Nadeau, Brittany Belgarde (Quorum established)

1. Opening blessing provided by Charter Member, Twila Martin Kekahabah.
2. Staffing update
   1. Brittany Belgarde is leaving INMED. She has returned home to work at Turtle Mountain Community College. Brittany gave an update and thanked the TAB.
   2. Dr. Warne welcomed Yvette LaPierre who will be helping with the summer programs. Yvette shared her background and interests and the TAB welcomed her onboard.
3. Introductions of the TAB and INMED staff/faculty
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Not reviewed.

1. COVID-19 Update
   1. Dr. Warne provided national and local statistics regarding current impact of COVID-19 pandemic and acknowledged this difficulty and stress on individuals, communities, tribal nations and globally.
2. Director’s Update - See Director’s Report
   1. Incoming INMED students – UND has admitted 8 students into the INMED program for the fall. Tribal affiliations of the incoming students include 3 from MHA, 2 from Cherokee, 1 Blackfeet, 1 Choctaw, 1 Turtle Mountain.
   2. COBRE – Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency Research Center grant
      1. This grant is $10 million over 5 years and will study the positive impact of resiliency on Native communities.
      2. The grant has been submitted to NIH for review which is expected by fall 2020. Would likely be implemented in January 2021.
   3. Endowment Scholarships update
      1. Drs. Warne and Wescott met with the Tribal Council of MHA who are supportive of creating an endowed scholarship with proposed contribution of $1 million in this year and an additional $1 million next year. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic impact, particularly on oil prices, has slowed the momentum of this.
      2. Alumnus John Shore has pledged $10,000 for 15 years for endowed scholarship totaling $150,000.
   4. New programming update
      1. Indigenous MPH program is up and running. There are several current medical students interested and they are granted automatic admission and would complete the MPH between 3rd and 4th years of medical school.
      2. Indigenous Health PhD programs was approved by AAC/NDUS and by the State Board of Higher Education.
         1. Currently 60 applicants for 12 positions
         2. There is also a student who is interested in pursuing as MD/PhD.
         3. Twila advised that the Kellogg Foundation has expressed interested creating a global replica of the INMED program. She will provide Dr. Warne with the information.
      3. INMED Pre-medical program
         1. Dr. Warne met with leadership on campus of UND to discuss creation of undergraduate programming in American Indian Studies that would be linked to Biomedical Sciences. He reported the leadership was very supportive of this idea. He is continuing to work to move this forward.
3. Program Updates
   1. **INMED Students – impact of COVID-19 pandemic** (Dr. Warne, Dr. Wescott)
      1. Acknowledge that the shift to online learning has been stressful, especially for clinical experiences.
      2. Students at U of SD reported to be volunteering and beginning to have some behind the scenes clinical experiences.
      3. Goal of all institutions is to keep students safe and on track in the curriculum
      4. Students have also been assigned to do contact tracing in conjunction with public health efforts and may be considered for Strike Teams to do screening. This is being coordinated with all the tribes in the Great Plains area.
   2. **Summer Institute** (Dr. Wescott)
      1. Will be a virtual/remote institute for summer 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
      2. 4 week (instead of 6 week) program running June 22-July 17, 2020.
      3. Will be able to accept 60 participants.
         1. Currently have 60 accepted: 6 have given firm acceptances, 3 declined acceptances. The deadline to respond is April 30, 2020.
         2. Also have 20 applicants on the waitlist.
      4. Difficult to continue with traditional curriculum, therefore have restructured to be organized into theme weeks:
         1. First week: Why do infectious diseases plague us?
         2. Second week: Breathing/respiratory focus.
         3. Third week: Controlling epidemics-epidemiology, policy, public health
         4. Fourth week: Final presentations
         5. Woven throughout will be communication strategies, topics including interviewing.
      5. A stipend will still be provided
      6. Internet access not required. Content will be packaged on DVD, flash drives, etc. and devices may be provided as well. Some content via zoom but not mandatory. Will just need phone access.
   3. **MCAT Prep Program** (Kathleen Fredericks)
      1. 6 week program, June 1 – July 10, 2020.
      2. Will be done virtually/remotely.
      3. Likely to have 10 participants (10 completed applications, 2 incomplete applications as of today.
      4. Deadline to apply was April 15, 2020.
      5. 4 first year medical students will serve as mentors/teachers for the program as well as Yvette LaPierre.
   4. **CLIMB** **– Prematriculation** **Program**(Kathleen Fredericks)
      1. All 8 incoming students will participate.
      2. 2 week program: June 16 – July 1, classes start July 6, 2020.
      3. Using Zoom for all sessions
      4. Curriculum for the program was reviewed which may include virtual tours of facilities.
   5. **NEURO - Middle/High School STEM Teacher Summer Program** (Erica Gunville)
      1. 9 applicants, selected 5 (middle/high School teachers from Turtle Mountain Community Schools, Lame Deer Schools, Four Winds, Newtown, Fort Yates)
      2. NIH recommended to pause the program. The program will get a 1-year extension and the selected teachers will participate in the program next year.
      3. This year they will be connected by virtual meetings. First one scheduled for June 1, 2020.
4. Honoring of Graduates
   1. INMED Class of 2020 document was shared via email. Does not include all graduates.
   2. Susan Holden read all of the names and programs of honored graduates, which included 17 participants of INMED programs. She will share the information with the TAB via email.
5. Funding/IHS Grant
   1. IHS Grant funded through 2021
   2. COBRE grant is pending
   3. Also looking into NIH, NSF, NDDOH, ACS and others for additional funding for student programming.
6. Open Discussion
   1. **National policy for all Tribal Casinos to be 100% smoke free.** Dr. Wescott is working with point person for Turtle Mountain/state of ND on smoke-free casino campaign. She would like the TAB to consider a resolution in support of this.

***More information will be shared with the TAB and it was recommended consideration be given to show support but not take a lead or get too deeply involved.***

* 1. **Replenishing Charter Membership.** James Iron Shell, Vice-Chair, asked the TAB to consider strategies for replenishing the number of Charter members on the TAB as the institutional memory and knowledge about INMED and its programs are vital to moving ahead in the future. Currently there are only 2-3 active Charter members which seems risky given that life circumstances can change.

*Information regarding the history and purpose of Charter Members on the TAB will be sent out to all current members and nominations for additional Charter members will be entertained at a future meeting.*

* 1. Every TAB member provided opportunity for Q&A and closing thoughts. Discussion ensued, information and updates shared. No action items initiated.

1. Adjournment

James Iron Shell, Vice-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:23 pm CDT.

The next meeting will be in July, 2020. Date/time TBD.

Minutes submitted by: LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD, Secretary

Minutes approved by: