EAGLE SHIELD CENTER
BLACKFEET PCA PROGRAM

“Enhancing the Quality of Life” of Elder and Disabled Persons

Carrie Bearchief-Evans
Blackfeet Tribe
Eagle Shield Center Director
P.O. Box 76
Browning, MT 59417
406-338-7257
respite@3rivers.net
The Blackfeet Indian Reservation

- 17,000 + enrolled members (enrollment department)
- 14,564 enrolled members in 2000
- 1,231 elder members aged 60 and older living on the reservation (April 2018)
- 926 elder members aged 60 and older living on the reservation in 2000
- 10,405 Blackfeet Reservation Population (2010 U.S. Census)
- The Blackfeet population is growing
- Total 3,550 elders members age 60 and older
Figure 1. Decennial Census Count of American Indian and Alaska Native Population
Eagle Shields’ Mission Statement

To provide adequate services to the elderly and disabled individuals of this reservation so as to improve/maintain health, nutrition and social participation in order to prolong independent lifestyles for these most vulnerable individuals. Taking care of each other in the Blackfeet Community focusing on elders, we offer a network of support and assistance to improve the quality of care for family caregivers and elders. Our goal is to restore the Blackfeet traditional family values, rebuilding our tradition of respect, love and honor. Dedicated to keeping the Spiritual, physical, mental and emotional life in balance.
The Beginning

The Blackfeet PCA program begin in 1995. Reports of
- inconsistent care
- lack of cultural sensitivity from other providers
- High rate of people with severe disabilities

Prompted the Elder Protection Team to come up with the idea of a Personal Care Program. The Tribal Council adopted the idea and gave the program 70,000 in start up funds. The program has been self sustaining since then.

Blackfeet PCA Program opened October 1995. As the first Tribal PCA Program in Montana. Last year we celebrated our 20th anniversary.
The program has managed to address disability issues, cultural sensitivity, unemployment, and economic hardship in our rural community.

Clientele is diverse the program serves everyone from young people to the very elderly.

All of our office staff started out as PCA attendants. It’s an excellent program in helping and teaching younger people how to help and interact with our elders.
What is Personal Assistance Services?

- Montana Medicaid Program
- Prevents or delays institutionalization
- Clients are functionally limited to perform activities of daily living
- Provide medically necessary, long term maintenance or supportive care in the home
Process

- Call agency and make referral directly
- Doctor, social worker or friend may make referral
- Referral sent to nurse at Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation
  - Explain process
  - Complete assessment
  - Materials explaining program and providers in area
Activities of Daily Living

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Toileting
- Mobility
- Transferring
- Positioning
- Meal Preparation
- Eating
- Exercise
- Medication Assist
Housekeeping Tasks

Insure a Safe Environment

- Changing bed sheets
- Light Housekeeping
- Cleaning medical equipment
- Laundry
- Washing dishes
 Escort

Going with and assisting a person to medical appointments paid for by Medicaid

Community Integration
Shopping

- Groceries and essential household items
- Medicine
- Durable Medical Equipment
Personal Care Assistants

- Non-Immediate Family Member
- Local Individuals
- Drug Test
- Background check
PCAs

- **CNA Training Waived**
- **Basic training course of 16 hours, 8 hours annually**
  - Orientation to agency, community and services
  - Body Mechanics, Transfer and Assisting Patient Mobility
  - Personal Assistance Skills
  - Care of the Home and Personal Belongings
  - Safety and Accident Prevention
  - Food, Nutrition and Meal Prep
  - Record Keeping
  - Client Rights including Confidentiality
  - Communication Skills
  - Basic Human Needs
Self Direct PAS

- Client must
  - have authorization from physician or health care professional to participate in program
  - Be capable of making choices about activities of daily living and direct their own care

- Or Personal Representative to assume responsibilities
Self Direct PAS

Client or PR must be capable of assuming management responsibilities of attendants

- Select
- Train
- Manage
- Supervise
SDPAS Health Maintenance Activities

Skilled nursing tasks are exempt from Nurse Practice for purpose of the program

- Medication Administration
- Bowel Treatment
- Urinary Systems Management
- Wound Care
Medicaid Waiver

Provided by other programs

- Meals on Wheels
- Respite
- Homemakers
- Socialization
- Supervision
- Home Modifications
Blackfeet PCA Program

- **Current Clients**
  - 45
  - 33 State
  - 12 Self-Direct

- **PCAs**
  - 37
  - PCA Office Manager
  - PCA Scheduler
  - Nurse Supervisor

*FY 2016 Medicaid Revenue $560,000*
Blackfeet Eagle Shield Services
- Title VI Nutrition and Support Services
- Native Family Caregiver Support

Blackfeet PCA Program
- New Program Community First Choice which is more person centered care
- Personal Assistance Services
- HCBS Services (Waiver)

House a 16 apartment complex for elders 62 years and older based on income level.
Other Services provided

- Health promotion activities
- Host site for Experience Works: training site for older workers
- Host site for Opportunities Inc: training site for younger workers entering the workforce
- Community Health checkups
- Community Workshops, educational trainings
- Information and referral
- Support Groups
- Wills Clinics
- Affordable Care Act
- Cultural Activities
- Social Activities
- House the Veterans field office and transportation services
Addressing other community Needs

- Community Hospice/end of Life collaboration committee: Addressing issues of end of life and develop a Culturally sensitive hospice program
- Working with the State of Montana to develop our own Tribal Medicaid Waiver Program
- Blackfeet Tribal Health Strategic planning committee: Received Grant to develop a Centralized Billing Office to enhance revenue and sustain Tribal Healthcare programs
- Secondary Trauma Community Advisory Board to respond to secondary trauma among Blackfeet Service Providers
Wrap Up

- Who is eligible for services.
- What services are covered.
- What are the service limits.
- What is the reimbursement for services.
- What issues are related to becoming a Medicaid certified provider and Medicaid billing.
- Whom to contact.