

June 7, 1963

Director
US Public Health Service Indian Hospital
Talihina, Oklahoma

*Int. -
Indians*

Dear Sir:

You will recall that the tuberculosis patients at the Hospital recently wrote me expressing the hope that they will be permitted to stay where they are rather than be transferred to a State Hospital.

I am sure you are already aware of the survey of Indian health needs described in the enclosed letter from the Public Health Service, but perhaps you will wish to circulate it among the tuberculosis patients to allay their concern that the survey was only a part of the study being made and not a definitive action.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Indian Health Area Office
301 Post Office & Court House Bldg.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Refer to: **Admin.**

JUN 5 1963

Honorable A. S. Mike Monroney
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Monroney:

Your letter of May 31, 1963, to the Talihina Indian Hospital has been referred to me and I am pleased to be able to furnish you this information.

The letter or petition sent to you by the patients at Talihina was somewhat premature. We have been conducting a complete survey of the health needs of the Indians in the Talihina Service Unit. This study has included a review of all the resources available, which includes state, county and community resources in addition to those provided by the federal government. In the course of the survey the tuberculosis problem was also reviewed and recommendations are being made that in the future it would be advisable to treat all tuberculosis patients in the state hospitals, regardless of race. This would be on a gradual assumption of the workload with new cases being admitted to those facilities. I again remind you that this is only a study and not a definitive action.

In this same survey there are recommendations for an extension of our field health activities to enable us to reach many of our beneficiaries in the widespread sixteen county service unit who are not now seeking medical care, curative or preventive, because of distance and transportation difficulties. There is no plan to discontinue services but in our opinion better care can and will be provided.

I have already discussed this survey with Harry J. W. Belvin, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation and assured him that no major changes in our program will be made without bringing the Indian leaders into the discussion. He advises me that he feels we are making progress that he can interpret to his tribal people and is being most helpful to us. We certainly appreciate his assistance.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you in this program.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Benjamin E. McBrayer, M.D.

Benjamin E. McBrayer, M.D.
Indian Health Area Director

May 31, 1963

Director
US Public Health Service Indian Hospital
Talihina, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I have received a letter signed by the Hospital tuberculosis patients expressing the hope that they will be permitted to remain where they are rather than be transferred to the State Hospital.

I was unaware that the Public Health Service had any plans to transfer these patients to the State Hospital. However, you may advise them that I am taking the matter up with the Chief of the Division of Indian Health in their behalf, and that I will write you again just as soon as I receive his report.

With best regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,