

# Tribal Technical Advisory Group

To the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

c/o National Indian Health Board 926 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003 (202) 507-4070 (202) 507-4071 fax

Ms. Cindy Mann, Director  
Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

January 12, 2010

Dear Ms. Mann,

On behalf of the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) I am writing to thank you for the December 28, 2009 "Dear State Health Official" letter regarding clarifications about the Citizenship Documentation requirements. The direction given to States regarding the treatment of American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking enrollment in Medicaid or CHIP corrects a significant barrier that TTAG has been working to resolve for over 3 years.

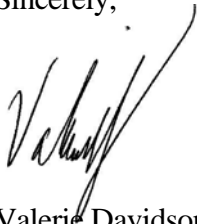
Because of the importance of this letter to the Indian Health Service, Tribal and urban Indian health programs, I'd like to ask if it can be posted on your website under the American Indian/Alaska Native Center page. Having this document easily available will help Indian health providers to work with patients and States to ensure that eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to the Medicaid benefits to which they are entitled.

I also want to reinforce our appreciation for the Tribal consultation process you used to develop CMS policies related to CHIPRA and ARRA. By engaging in meaningful discussions about the Citizenship Documentation issue as well as others, Tribal advocates as well as CMS staff were able to come to a clearer understanding about the issues and then arrive at productive solutions.

Even though we are all so busy with the many, many important health care issues being discussed right now, I did not want to let this mutual accomplishment go unnoticed. It is a great success and I want to thank you and your staff for their diligence in working with us.

Of course we have much more to do and I look forward to our many new accomplishments to make CMS programs more accessible for American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country.

Sincerely,



Valerie Davidson, Chair

cc: Ms. Charlene Frizzera, Administrator