

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

May 12, 2010

TTAG Conference Call - Action Items

Action Item	Timeline	Person Responsible	Status	Notes
Develop goals and associated outcomes for PPACA and IHCA implementation.	ASAP	TTAG	Ongoing	
Develop a tracking matrix for PPACA and IHCA tasks/activities.	ASAP	CMS	Ongoing	
Send updates on topics of interest to Indian Country to TTAG members for distribution to their individual contact lists.	ASAP	CMS	Ongoing	

May 12, 2010

TTAG Conference Call Minutes

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Documents Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda (Attachment A) 	
Welcome and Call to Order	<p>Ms. Valerie Davidson, Chair, Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) and Executive Vice President and Senior Director, Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, welcomed participants and asked that the roll be taken.</p>	
Roll Call	<p>Ms. Tyra Baer, CMS Project Assistant, National Indian Health Board, took the roll of the TTAG members participating in the call:</p> <p>TTAG: Alaska – Valerie Davidson Aberdeen – absent Albuquerque – absent Bemidji – Phil Norrgard Billings – absent California – absent Nashville – Dee Sabattus Navajo – Anselm Roanhoarse Oklahoma – Tracy Jones Phoenix – David Reede Portland – absent Tucson – absent TSGAC – absent NIHB – Sally Smith</p>	

	<p>NCAI – Jason Dollarhide IHS – Carl Harper NCUIH – absent</p> <p>TTAG Tech Advisors: Carol Barbero, Technical Advisor, Nashville Area Daniel Delaney, Technical Advisor, NCUIH Myra Munson, Technical Advisor, Alaska Area Kris Locke, Technical Advisor, TSGAC Ed Fox, Technical Advisor, Portland Area Lisa Tonrey, Technical Advisor, IHS</p> <p>Tribes and Tribal Organizations: Rhonda Butcher Gerald Moses Robert Two Bears</p> <p>CMS: Lindsey Cometa Rodger Goodacre Nancy Grano Kitty Marx Rosie Norris Nancy Rios Cindy Smith Laine Terwilliger</p> <p>IHS: Balerma Burgess Tammy Clay Chris Manydeeds</p> <p>NIHB: Tyra Baer Robin Carufel</p> <p>A quorum being present, Ms. Davidson called the meeting to order.</p>	
Report from Chair	<p>Ms. Davidson thanked all of the TTAG members for their work in support of the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). Implementation of these laws will require a sustained effort.</p>	
Report from Secretary	<p>None.</p>	
Report from CMS	<p>Tribal Priorities Ms. Kitty Marx, Director, Tribal Affairs Group (TAG), Office of External Affairs and Beneficiary Services (OEA), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) followed up on some of the issues addressed during the April face-to-face meeting.</p> <p>With regard to the conversation concerning PPACA with Ms. Charlene Frizzera, Executive Project Management Officer, CMS, the TTAG was tasked with defining goals and outcomes that can be used to measure the success of the PPACA and IHCIA implementation.</p> <p>Other issues discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-implementing provisions of the new laws; • The importance of outreach and enrollment activities, especially in light of state budget cuts and the changing Medicaid eligibility levels (133 percent of poverty); • Reimbursement rates under health exchanges 	<p>TTAG will develop a list of goals and associated outcomes for PPACA and IHCIA implementation.</p>

- The push for a unique benefits package for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs);
- Direct funding of state Medicaid benefits for AI/ANs;
- Tribal consultation; and,
- Implementation of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health initiative.

CMS will address these issues in an implementation plan that it will share with TTAG.

Ms. Kris Locke, TTAG Technical Advisor, voiced her opinion that the tracking documents (matrix) distributed at the last TTAG face-to-face meeting were very helpful. She suggested that future versions of these documents identify completed subtasks/issues within each major task/issue, not just the status of the overall task. She cited the tasks related to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 implementation as examples of tasks that have multiple steps. **Ms. Marx** confirmed that the issues raised at the face-to-face meeting would be incorporated into the tracking matrix. **Mr. Anslem Roanhorse**, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Division of Health, requested that the Across State Borders Subcommittee projects be added to the matrix.

HHS Tribal Consultation Update

Ms. Marx reported that tribal leaders at the Region VIII consultation requested that CMS share information about the presentations, discussions, and action items from the TTAG meetings with the wider AI/AN community via a newsletter or blog. She stated that CMS currently sends copies of State Medicaid Director (SMD) letters to the TTAG, Indian Health Service (IHS), and the national Indian organizations. She noted that people may not be likely to read a full SMD letter; therefore, CMS is considering a newsletter or other means of communicating short synopses of important topics.

She asked the TTAG members for their ideas on improving CMS communications with the wider Indian community.

Ms. Davidson suggested that CMS also send the letters directly to all of the Indian health boards. **Ms. Locke** added that the National Congress of American Indians might be able to provide support with regard to maintaining an updated tribal leader email list. She asked how materials beyond the SMD letters, particularly a newsletter, would be developed and distributed. **Ms. Danielle Delaney**, National Council of Urban Indian Health, **Ms. Locke**, and **Ms. Marx** discussed the difficulty of finding a complete, updated list of tribal leaders and maintaining it over time. **Ms. Davidson** pointed out the importance of getting information out to organizations and groups that have distribution lists so that they can more widely disseminate it. Participants agreed that TTAG members should forward any information they receive from CMS to their individual distribution lists.

Mr. Roanhorse added that Region VIII consultation participants were interested in receiving updates on information discussed during the previous year's meeting and in the possibility of returning the meeting to two days in length as in previous years. **Ms. Marx**

CMS will develop a tracking matrix for PPACA and IHCA tasks/activities.

CMS will send updates on topics of interest to Indian Country to TTAG members for further distribution to their individual distribution lists.

	<p>indicated that the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs will begin tracking issues raised at the consultation sessions in a format similar to the one used by TTAG in order to facilitate better communications.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports: Outreach and Education</p>	<p>Mr. Rodger Goodacre, TAG, OEA, CMS, reported that the CMS/IHS training took place in Anchorage, Alaska, the previous week. Approximately 50 individuals attended. The training featured separate tracks for outreach workers and billers.</p> <p>Twelve of the planned 28 sessions have now been scheduled.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports: Data</p>	<p>There will be a Data Subcommittee call on May 21 at 1:00 p.m. EDT.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports: Long-Term Care</p>	<p>Mr. David Reede, Vice Chairman, San Carlos Apache, reported that Subcommittee members attended and presented at a long-term care (LTC) conference the previous week. The presentations summarized work done by TTAG, discussed LTC ideas and issues of concern in Indian Country, and addresses the formation of an Indian LTC association.</p> <p>The Subcommittee anticipates holding a conference call the week of May 17 to discuss future activities.</p> <p>Ms. Rhonda Butcher, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, noted that her tribe is very interested in the implications of PPACA on tribes and LTC. She volunteered to help the Subcommittee with this topic.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports: Across State Borders</p>	<p>Mr. Roanhorse reported that the Subcommittee has not held any conference calls since the April face-to-face meeting. The Chemawa School and the Chief Gall youth residential treatment facility will be the two sites used in the case studies. Subcommittee members reviewed the focus group/key informant questions, and Kauffman and Associates, Inc. (KAI) finalized the questions. Between May and July, KAI will conduct the case studies. KAI is scheduled to deliver the draft report on July 15.</p> <p>The Subcommittee will meet soon to discuss the comments received at the face-to-face meeting.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports: ARRA Protections Workgroup</p>	<p>Ms. Marx indicated that the Subcommittee would meet in the near future.</p> <p>She also reported that a new SMD letter was issued on Friday, May 7 concerning the requirement for states to engage in consultation and amend their state plans to identify how this will be done. The letter will be posted in the <i>Federal Register</i> for 30 days.</p> <p>The Subcommittee will begin working on expanding the July 17, 2001, SDM letter concerning tribal consultation requirements for waivers to reflect the state consultation requirements contained in ARRA Section 5006.</p>	
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>The next TTAG conference call will take place on Wednesday, June 9. The TTAG will not hold a conference call in July because the next face-to-face meeting will take place on July 28-29. It will be followed</p>	

	by the data symposium on July 30.	
Adjourn	With no other business to be discussed, the call adjourned.	

DRAFT

Attachment A:

Agenda

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TTAG AGENDA

Conference Call

Wednesday, May 12, 2010 2:30 – 4:00 PM (Eastern)

Call in Number: 1-877-267-1577 Participant Code: 322943#

- 2:30 Welcome** – Valerie Davidson, Chair
Roll Call - Tyra Baer, NIHB
- 2:35 Report from Chair** –Valerie Davidson
- 2:40 Report from Secretary** - Carolyn Finster
- 2:45 Report from CMS** - Kitty Marx, Director TAG
- a. **Tribal Priorities** identified at April 29-30, 2010 Face to Face Meeting
 - b. **HHS Tribal Consultation update**
- 3:00 Subcommittee activities/schedules**
- a. **Outreach and Education** - Kathy Hughes
 - b. **Data** - Jim Crouch (DATA subcommittee call 5/21/10, 1:00 PM Eastern)
 - c. **LTC** – David Reede
 - d. **Across State Borders** - Anslem Roanhorse
 - e. **CMS/TTAG ARRA Protections Workgroup**- Kitty Marx
- 3:30 Other Business**
- 4:00 Adjourn**

NOTE: Future TTAG Meetings and Conference Calls

July 28-29, 2010: TTAG Face to Face Meeting (At NMAI, Washington DC)

July 30, 2010: DATA Symposium

Nov. 9-10, 2010: TTAG Face to Face Meeting (At NMAI, Washington DC)

NOTE: NASMD Conference November 7-10, 2010

Remaining 2010 TTAG Conference calls: June 9, July 14 (may be cancelled due to Face To Face), August 11, September 8, October 13, December 10.