
**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN HEALTH CARE
REGULAR MEETING**

Date: October 5, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: 1740 W. Adams, Suite # 409, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Members present:

Priscilla Antone, Gila River Indian Community

Lori Joshweseoma, Hopi Tribe

Alida Montiel, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

Michael Allison, Arizona Department of Health Services

Mary Huyser, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Members absent:

Bonnie Talakte, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Staff present:

Kim Russell, Executive Director, and Lydia Enriquez, Administrative Assistant

Guest present: Carol Chicharello, Indian Health Service; Herminia Frias, Arizona American Indian Oral Health Initiative; Cynthia Lemesh, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and Deanna Sangster, Native Health

Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Montiel called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum:

Ms. Russell called roll and five out of six members were present. Quorum was established.

Invocation

Ms. Antone offered the opening prayer.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda (Action Item)

Mr. Allison motioned to accept the meeting agenda and Ms. Huyser seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Reading and Approval of the August 31, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Ms. Joshweseoma made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with edits and Mr. Allison seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

ACOIHC Elections

- **Chairperson:** Ms. Russell opened nominations for Chairperson. Ms. Huyser nominated Ms. Montiel for Chairperson of the ACOIHC and Ms. Antone seconded the nomination. Ms. Montiel accepted the nomination. Mr. Allison motioned to close nominations and Ms. Antone seconded the motion. The Council voted 5 Yea and 0 Nay for Ms. Montiel to continue to serve as the ACOIHC Chairperson. Ms. Russell then handed over the meeting back to Ms. Montiel.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Ms. Joshweseoma nominated Ms. Antone for Vice-Chairperson, but she declined. Mr. Allison nominated Ms. Joshweseoma for Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Huyser seconded the motion. Ms. Joshweseoma accepted the nomination. Ms. Antone motioned to close nominations and Mr. Allison seconded the motion. The Council voted 5 Yea and 0 Nay for Ms. Joshweseoma to continue to serve as the ACOIHC Vice-Chairperson.

Reports

- **Chairwoman Report:** Ms. Montiel reported that at a duly held ACOIHC meeting on August 31, 2015, the Council approved and finalized draft amendments. The Council requested that Ms. Montiel, Ms. Joshweseoma and Ms. Russell meet with Senator Carlyle Begay to share with him the finalized draft statutes amendments and to request his consideration in introducing a bill in the upcoming legislative session. Ms. Montiel and Ms. Russell met with Senator Begay on September 30, 2015. Senator Begay received the finalized draft statute amended and he plans to share them with Ms. Christine Corieri, Health Policy Advisor to the Governor; to determine if she has any further concerns.

When Ms. Montiel and Ms. Russell met with the Governor's staff on July 22, 2015 regarding the proposed statutory changes they expressed two concerns: 1) the appointments time frame (making appointments within 60 days) and 2) Policy and legislative authorities.

Senator Begay stated that he is willing to introduce a bill on behalf of the ACOIHC. Ms. Montiel informed him that the ACOIHC requires funding for additional staff. She further informed the senator that this advisory council receives a federal match that comes through AHCCCS so this would not be a total burden on the legislative budget.

Ms. Russell commented that the updated statutes have added to the scope of work of the Council. In preparation for the upcoming legislative session an organizational chart should be prepared that details additional staff and their duties as well as a budget that includes additional staff salary, travel and other related expenses.

- **Executive Director Report:** Ms. Russell provided a detailed review of the ACOIHC Strategic Plan. The following recommendations were made:

- Goal 4: Add an objective number 3., Possible grants with the governor's office approval
- Goal 6: Under Future Work, add Dental Health Aide Therapist and Arizona Health Education Centers
- Goal 7: Add Non-Medical Emergency Transportation

ACOIHC Statutory Revisions

- Senator Begay will move the ACOIHC Amended Statutes forward. Mr. Allison recommended that the Council begin soliciting resolution or letters of support for the ACOIHC statute amendments immediately.

Arizona Section 1115 Demonstration Project Waiver

- Ms. Russell stated that AHCCCS updated their section 1115 Waiver narrative which lists who is exempt from participation and it includes persons with a serious mental health illness and American Indian/Alaskan Natives. Moving forward the ACOIHC will advocate for greater collaboration between AHCCCS and the ACOIHC so that the ACOIHC may provide input as these very important documents are being created that may impact the tribes.

Bills that were passed this past legislative session that will impact the tribes are:

- SB 1475 exemption from providing non-emergency medical transport services for a year until September 2016.
- SB 1092 Institutes a work requirement for all abled bodied adults receiving services
- SB 1475 Regarding cost sharing requirements

Ms. Montiel stated that it is unclear if the tribes are included in the Non-EMT exemption, but she will make inquiry and she will research on whether the Urban AI/AN are exempted from the AHCCCS Care Program as well. If not we will continue to advocate for them.

Mr. Allison recommended the ACOIHC develop a letter to CMS regarding EMT exemption. Ms. Russell stated that she will draft a letter to inform the tribes that there is still time to submit letters directly to CMS on the NEMT exemption issue.

Ms. Russell stated that moving forward the ITCA and the ACOIHC will to continue to monitor legislation and alert the tribes on bills that may affect the tribes. Also it's important to encourage tribal leaders to sign in and testify before the legislators.

Ms. Chicharello recommended that the tribes should be sent information on the process of consultation and should obtain clarification from AHCCCS as to the comments deadlines and where comments are to be sent.

Ms. Montiel said that in her letter to CMS on the Medical Home Model, she stated that she understands that a patient needs to agree to become part of this program, but that she doesn't want to see an extra step where a patient experiences another level of bureaucracy. She also included that efforts to include the Urban Programs in uncompensated reimbursements should happen immediately.

Ms. Montiel stated that at a meeting with Ms. Christina Corieri, Governor's Policy Advisor she expressed to her that the ACOIHC and the ITCA jointly do their best to get information out to the tribes, to have them provide input to the legislative committees and to the Governor's office, but if the tribes are not consulted on major health policy changes they are going to request that the Governor veto bills every time. It is difficult to navigate the legislative public process, to constantly monitor the committees' agendas. Sometimes they change their agendas and repost them. Without the tribes having someone at the legislature on a daily basis they would not know what bills are being introduced.

AHCCCS did post their revised draft Section 1115 Waiver submitted to CMS and it included the three areas listed below and work groups will be formed around these areas and the role which the ACOIHC can play is to facilitate the work groups.

- The American Indian Medical Home Model
- The Traditional Benefit
- Uncompensated Care Payment to IHS and 638 Programs

ACOIHC Next Steps: Ms. Russell would like to put together a 'Think Tank' of tribal health care leaders to start talking about potential Section 1115 waivers to submit to CMS. Some areas to begin generating discussion could be:

- Community Health Representatives (CHR)
- Medicaid Eligibility Determination
- Oral Health
- Behavioral Health
- Urban Indian Population

History of the ACOIHC Presentation

Ms. Russell provided a document written by consultant, Ken White Jr., regarding the history of the ACOIHC. The ACOIHC began when tribes of Arizona were not included in the Medicaid Program, which led to a law-suit AHCCCS vs DHHS/IHS and the issue was payer of last resort. The payer of last resort became federal law when the Affordable Care Act was passed and it is now law and no longer an administrative policy of IHS.

Ms. Russell will ask Mr. White to provide an oral report per his contract via a teleconferencing meeting. Per the consultant contract he is also required to provide Section 1115 demonstration project ideas.

Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Russell provided a document of the ACOIHC Strategic Plan short term and long term goal including goal 6 and goal 7. Ms. Russell would like for the ACOIHC to revise the strategic plan to be more strategic and wishes to convene a future meeting to discuss this.

Ms. Montiel reported on a recent meeting she attended along with Ms. Russell, Dr. Alyssa York and Ms. Hermina Frias with Dr. Michael Recuber, AHCCCS Dental Program Director. Discussions were on:

- SB 1282 Tele Dentistry Bill that was created in the State of Arizona
- The scope of practice of the Expanded Function Dental Assistants and the affiliated relationship between the hygienist and the expanded function dental assistant

In the private sector tele dentistry can be utilized to determine treatment for an individual and once the individual is seen by a dentist, they can bill for that service. Currently, AHCCCS plans cannot bill for tele dentistry as it is not considered billable on its own, but as part of a treatment. This may be an idea for a demonstration project.

Currently, the ACOIHC and the AAIOHI are attending stakeholder meetings with Senator David Bradley to discuss proposed legislation around Oral Health.

Mr. Allison made a motion to conduct a statewide American Indian Workgroup on the Dental Health Aide Therapist to discuss the DHAT. Ms. Russell will move forward on that idea with the SEC and other partners.

Affordable Care Act Opportunities for Community Health Workers

Ms. Montiel reported on the CHR Summit held on September 1, 2015 in Flagstaff, AZ. Seventeen tribes were in attendance and it was very well attended. This is a CHR/CHW grassroots effort to try and get the CHR and CHW profession recognized in Arizona State law. Discussions involved what the process would be to get this accomplished. The Arizona Community Health Worker Workforce Coalition decided not to move forward in the upcoming legislative session, but will do some ground work to prepare for the next session.

Call to Public

No comments made.

Announcements

- The Next Statewide Behavioral Health Forum planning committee meeting is on October 14th 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the ADHS 150 building in conference room 540-A.
- National Dementia Alzheimer Conference October 15 -16th at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N Scottsdale Road.
- Phoenix and Tucson Areas will be hosting the CMS Annual Outreach and Education Training on Dec 1-2 at the Phoenix Area Office
- Phoenix Area Office Budget Formulation Meeting FY 2020 will be in Reno, Nevada on November 4-5 2015.

Next meeting date/Next meeting agenda Items:

- Next Meeting is on December 18, 2015 9:00 A.M
- Next meeting agenda item will include the re-allocation of ACOIHC funds.

Adjournment

Mr. Allison motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Huyser seconded the motion. All approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.