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

Date: Friday, October 23, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.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

Bonnie Talakte, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (on the phone)

Members absent

Mary Huyser, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Staff present:

Kim Russell, Executive Director and Lydia Enriquez, Administrative Assistant

Guest present:

Cynthia Lemesh, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Montiel at 9:15 a.m.

Invocation and Introductions

Ms. Enriquez offered the opening prayer.

Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

Ms. Russell called role and four out of six members were present. Quorum was established.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda (Action Item)

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

Reading and Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2015 (Action Item)

Ms. Antone motioned to table the minutes and Mr. Allison seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Statute Committee Report

Mr. Allison provided an overview of the work done by the ACOIHC Statute Committee thus far and provided an overview of the past meetings with the Governor's staff and with Senator Carlyle Begay. Mr. Allison stated that Senator Begay will continue to guide the ACOIHC in communications and protocol with the Governor's Office and offered to sponsor the ACOIHC Statute Amendments during the 2016 Arizona Legislative Session.

Senator Begay offered his assistance in promoting support for obtaining resolutions from the tribes. Senator Begay stated that he is opening a bill folder in mid-November which is the process for a bill being introduced. He further stated that the Draft Tribal Consultation Report from June 15, 2015 should be finalized as soon as possible.

Ms. Russell presented a draft template Resolution that Tribes can use to support the ACOIHC statute amendments.

Ms. Montiel commented that Senator Begay's participation in the ACOIHC Statutes Committee Meeting on October 10, 2015 reinforced his involvement. The ACOIHC is interested in working with all of the Native American Caucus and they need to work with the health committees of both the Senate and the House. The ACOIHC is a statutory council of the State of Arizona and in order to change the statutes they need to go through the legislative process. Ms. Montiel further stated that the ACOIHC statutes were first established in 1989 and needs to coincide with the current American Indian health care systems and the changes brought about by the Affordable Care Act. Per Arizona law, the ACOIHC is authorized to engage in legislative activity. The ACOIHC Statute Committee asked Senator Begay to advocate for the pending ACOIHC memberships to be moved forward so that the Council may conduct their business. Senator Begay stated that he would confer with the Governor to try and resolve the issues.

Ms. Russell stated it is her priority to get on the Arizona Tribes' council agendas to solicit support through resolution for the ACOIHC statutes amendments. Ms. Russell has reached out to the following tribes and organizations:

- Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona agenda on Tuesday October 27, 2015
- Tohono O'odham Nation Health Committee on October 29, 2015
- Navajo Nation Health Education Human Services Committee on November 18, 2015
- Gila River Indian Health and Social Committee- TBD
- Hopi Tribe Council- TBD

Statute Amendments (Action Item)

Mr. Allison provided an overview of the most recent statute amendments and the Statute Committee recommended the following edits:

- Page 1 at the top title page: Recommended Statutory Amendments

- Page 1 - place amendments dates at bottom of page.
- Page 1 section 3, (spell out PL- Public Law)
- Page 2 letter H – elections shall be held every other year

Mr. Allison motioned to approve the amendment with edits and Ms. Antone seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Tribal Consultation Report (Action Item)

Ms. Russell provided a detailed overview of the June 15, 2015 Tribal Consultation Report. The following recommended additions were provided for the title page:

- in the title, include the date of the Tribal Consultation
- At the bottom of the page Include, Prepared by Kim Russell and
- Approved by the ACOIHC October 23, 2015

Mr. Allison made a motion to approve the Tribal Consultation Report with edits and Ms. Antone seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Announcements

- Cynthia Lemesh reported that the Arizona Section 1115 amendments are on the CMS website and State Plan Amendments comments are due by to November 11, 2015. Please encourage the tribes to submit comments to the CMS Website.

Ms. Montiel commented that the Draft Section 1115 proposal presented at the AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Meeting in Flagstaff is different from the version submitted to CMS and the major change is that it allows for American Indian individuals to be exempt from for participating in the AHCCCS Care Program. Tribes will be encouraged to comment to the new demonstration version.

Ms. Russell suggested that the ACOIHC should comment to CMS on the updated demonstration.

- The ITAA is meeting on Tuesday October 27, 2015 and possible agenda topics are as follows::
 - ACOIHC Statute Amendment support resolutions from the tribes
 - AHCCCS Section 1115 Waiver
 - Twelve months benefit cap that will affect most tribes except for the TANF Tribes
- The Governor’s Tribal Leaders Summit in Fort McDowell November 30, 2015. Per Senator Begay’s advisement, it is important that the ACOIHC seek opening a bill folder by mid-November to get it assigned a bill number so that at the November meeting the tribes can communicate their support to Governor Ducey.

Next meeting date

Next regular meeting of the ACOIHC is December 18, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Advisory

Council of Indian Health Care Offices.

Next meeting agenda may include:

- Updates on Executive Director Report
- Resolution and Pending appointments
- Update on the ACOIHC membership

Adjournment

Mr. Allison motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Antone seconded the motion. All approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.