



Introduction

The AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy was adopted by the AHCCCS Administration and incorporated into its administrative policy in fiscal year 2007. Formal direction to AHCCCS and other Executive Branch agencies was provided in Executive Order 2006-14, "Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes." The executive order requires that all Executive Branch agencies:

1. Develop and Implement tribal consultation policies;
2. Designate a member of their staff to assume responsibility for the agency's implementation of the tribal consultation policy and act as the principle point of contact for tribal issues; and
3. Review their tribal consultation policies each year and submit an electronic report to the Governor and the Legislature to describe all action undertaken.

AHCCCS Consultation Policy

The AHCCCS Consultation Meetings with Tribes and I/T/U's are held in accordance with the AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy. Meetings are held to consult with tribes, Indian Health Service, tribal health programs operated under P.L. 93-638, and urban Indian health programs in Arizona on policy and programmatic changes that may significantly impact Indian AHCCCS and KidsCare members as well as Indian Health Service (IHS), tribal programs operated under P.L. 93-638, and urban Indian health programs.

Consultation Activities

Since January 1, 2012, the AHCCCS Administration has conducted ten (10) consultation meetings with Tribes and I/T/U's, with two (2) additional meetings scheduled for September 20, 2012 and September 27, 2012, to discuss various proposed policy and program changes during state fiscal year 2012. The following meetings were held primarily to provide updates and to discuss policy and programmatic changes that were either proposed by AHCCCS, mandated by the Arizona State Legislature or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

January 18, 2012. An AHCCCS consultation meeting with Tribes and I/T/U's was held at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were topics presented to participants:

- Review AHCCCS Budget
- AHCCCS Program & Waiver Update
- Transportation Partnership Policy



March 16, 2012, AHCCCS conducted a consultation meeting with IHS Directors and Chief Medical Officers at the Phoenix Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were topics of discussion:

- Introductions of new Tribal Relations Liaison and Coordinator of the Tribal Health Care Management Program
- AHCCCS Update
- Waiver Update
 - American Indian Exemption
 - Behavioral Health & CRS Integration
- State Plan Amendment (SPA) Update
- Care Management/Coordination within DFSM – New Focus
- Provider Rates for PCP's

March 29, 2012. An AHCCCS consultation meeting was held with Tribes and I/T/U's on at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were topics of discussion:

- Technical Workgroup Report
- Supplemental Payments to IHS & 638 Facilities
- Tribal Discussion, Q&A, Next Steps

April 16, 2012 and May 25, 2012. Two special trainings with Tribes and I/T/U's were held to provide information and technical assistance on Waiver Payments. The trainings were held at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were training topics:

April 16, 2012 Training

- Overview of Waiver Exemption Process
 - Overview of tracking sheets for Option 1
 - Updates to the PM/PM figures for Option 1
 - Payment timeframes
- Discussion on Special Terms and Conditions – 28(c)
 - Measuring outcomes
 - Demonstration framework
- IHS Calculation for Option 1 & Option 2
- Communicating Strategies & Recommendations
 - Role of CMS, AHCCCS, IHS/638 Providers, Tribes, ITCA, ACOIHC

May 25, 2012 Training

- Overview of Waiver Implementation Process
 - Desk level for Option 1
 - Calculation of Costs
 - Overview of Tracking Sheets for Option 1
 - Updates made to PM/PM Figures for Option 2
 - Payment timeframes



- Summary Monthly Reports for Option1-Attestation

June 15, 2012. An AHCCCS consultation meeting with IHS Directors and Chief Medical Officers was held at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were topics of discussion:

- AHCCCS Updates
 - Children Rehabilitative Services (CRS)
 - Dual Eligible Services (AHCCCS & Medicare)
 - AI Community Outreach
 - Health Care Reform Liaison, AHCCCS
- CMS Waiver and State Plan Amendment Updates
 - AVS Requirement (#12-004) – New
 - 638 Reimbursements (#12-003) - Update
 - Hospital Acquired Conditions (#11-016 – Update
 - Reporting and Evaluation of Waiver
- Tribal Health Care Management Plan Update
- Approved CY 2012 OMB rates and Update on CMS Waiver Payment Selection
- Proposed Tribal Leaders’ Strategic & Operational Planning Sessions

June 20, 2012. An AHCCCS consultation meeting with Tribes and I/T/U’s was held in San Carlos, Arizona. The meeting was hosted by the San Carlos Tribe. The following were topics presented to attendees.

- Overview of San Carlos Healthcare Program
- AHCCCS Overview and Update
- CMS Waiver Update & State Plan Amendment
- Tribal Health Care Management Program
- Approved CT 2012, OMB Rates and Updates on CMS Waiver Payments Selections
- Proposed Tribal Leaders Strategic & Operational Planning Sessions

July 24, 2012. A special conference call consultation with Tribes and I/T/U’s was held to provide Pharmacy updates. The following were topics of discussion:

- Pharmacy Benefits Manager
- AHCCCS Formulary
- Pharmacy Lock-Down Process

August 13, 2012. A special consultation with Tribes and I/T/U’s was held to discuss the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The following were topics of discussion:

- Affordable Care Act
- Medicaid Expansion
- Waiver Updates
- Health Insurance Exchange and Timeline
 - Efforts to date



- Essential benefits
- IHS & 638 facilities as Essential Community Providers
- Contracting with qualified health plans

August 21, 2012. A special conference call with Tribes and I/T/U's was held to discuss the State Plan Amendments. The following were topics of discussion:

- SPA 12-007 Outliers
- SPA 12-006A-D Reimbursement Rates
 - Nursing Facilities
 - Other Providers
 - Out-Patient Hospitals
 - In-Patient Hospitals
- SPA 12-XXA PCP Rate Increases
- SPA 12-XXB Nursing Facilities Supplemental Payments
- SPA 12-005 Reimbursement of Transportation Services
- SPA 12XXC Community First Choice Options

September 20, 2012. An AHCCCS consultation meeting will be held with IHS Directors and Chief Medical Officers at the AHCCCS Administration. The following will be topics of discussion:

- AHCCCS Update
- Waiver Evaluations
- SPA Update
- Discussion on Exchange Alternatives/Options

September 27, 2012. An AHCCCS consultation meeting with Tribes and I/T/U's will be held in Tucson, Arizona on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation. The following will be topics of discussion will be presented to attendees:

- Overview of Pascua Yaqui Healthcare Program
- AHCCCS Update
- Waiver Evaluation Survey
- Reimbursement APA Update
- All-Inclusive Rates
- Tribal Health Care Management Program Update
- Waiver Update
- State licensure Requirements for Non-Tribally Operated Facilities (conference call with CMS)



Additional Information

On March 5, 2012, Bonnie Talakte was hired to replace Carol Chicharello as AHCCCS Tribal Liaison

More information on the AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy and Consultation Meetings with Tribes and I/T/U are posted on the AHCCCS website, which can be found at www.azahcccs.gov. You may also contact Bonnie Talakte, AHCCCS Tribal Relations Liaison, at bonnie.talakte@azahcccs.gov for further information regarding the various proposed policy changes that have been discussed in previous meetings.