



## 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 (IHS), 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.

### Note:

A Tribal Consultation Policy Workgroup was organized at the February 6, 2013 Tribal Consultation meeting to review and update the AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy. The Workgroup presented the recommended Policy revisions at the August 15, 2013 Tribal Consultation meeting. A grace period of 30 days was provided for feedback from tribal stakeholders. Thereafter the approved Policy would be forwarded to the Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs for posting.

## Consultation Activities

Starting January 1, 2013, the AHCCCS Administration has conducted eight (8) scheduled quarterly consultation meetings with Tribes and I/T/U's, six (6) non-quarterly Special Tribal Consultation meetings, eight (8) Tribal and Community Forums, and twenty-eight (28) additional meetings to provide; technical assistance and/or discuss various proposed policy and program changes that may impact Tribes and tribal members during state fiscal year 2013.

# AHCCCS Tribal and I/T/U Consultations State Fiscal Year 2013



The following are scheduled and non-scheduled Tribal Consultation meetings held with Tribes, Tribal Leaders, IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian Health Programs. These meetings were held primarily to obtain Tribal feedback and input, 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).

## Scheduled Quarterly Tribal Consultation Meetings:

**February 6, 2013** – A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal Consultation meeting with Tribes and I/T/Us was held at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were topics of discussion:

- AHCCCS Update
  - Medicaid Coverage Decision
  - Governor’s Budget Overview
  - Request for Proposals Update
    - Maricopa RBHA
    - Statewide Acute Care
    - Children’s Rehabilitative Services Program (CRS)
- Prior Quarter Coverage
- ACA Primary Care Physician Increase
- Future of Uncompensated Payments Authority
- City of Phoenix Hospital Levy
- State Plan Amendments (SPAs)
- AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Review
- Written Tribal Support of Medicaid Expansion

**March 21, 2013** - A non-scheduled special combined Tribal Consultation meeting with Tribes and IHS Directors and Chief Medical Officers was held at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix, AZ. The following were topics of discussion:

- Walkthrough of Health-e-Arizona Plus Midway Through Development
- AHCCCS Update
  - Governor’s Coverage Proposal
  - Request for Proposals
  - Other Issues
- TRBHA/RBHA Auto Enrollment

**May 30, 2013** – A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal Consultation meeting with Tribes and I/T/Us was held at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. The following were topics of discussion:

- Overview of SRPMIC Health Services



- AHCCCS Update
  - Governor's AHCCCS Coverage Proposal
  - ACA Implementation Update
  - AHCCCS Strategic Plan
  - Non-Medical Transportation Issues (NEMT)
  - Proposed Department of Health Services Licensure Changes
  - Proposed NEMT Policy Changes
- Licensure/Credentialing for Private Provider Entities on Reservations
- Independently Registered Providers/Individuals Serving ALTCS American Indian Members
- Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)/Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) System Transformation

**June 20, 2013** –A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal 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
- Health Information Technology (HIT) Update
- Tribal Care Coordination Conference
- Continuity of Operations Procedure (COOP) Disaster Recovery Plan
- Navajo Area IHS Update
- Phoenix Area IHS Update
- Tucson Area IHS Update

**August 15, 2013** - A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal Consultation meeting with Tribes and I/T/Us was held on the Hopi Reservation. The following were topics of discussion:

- Overview of the Hopi Tribe Health Services
- Overview of the Hopi Health Care Center
- AHCCCS Update:
  - Legislative Wrap
  - AHCCCS Restoration
  - Strategic Roadmap
  - RBHA Integration Plan
- Health-e-Arizona Plus Update
- Essential Health Benefits
- American Indian Medical Home Waiver Amendment
- 1115 Waiver Update
- TRBHA Auto Enrollment Workgroup Update
- AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy Workgroup Recommendations

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**September 19, 2013** - A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal 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
- 1115 Waiver
- Non Emergency Transportation Workgroup Update
- ALTCS Tribal Providers Workgroup Update
- Health-e-Arizona Plus/Community Outreach

**November 14, 2013** – A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal Consultation meeting will be held with Tribes and I/T/Us at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix. This is the last Tribal Consultation meeting scheduled for 2013. A meeting agenda has not been developed.

**December 19, 2013** – A scheduled quarterly AHCCCS Tribal Consultation meeting will be held with IHS Directors and Chief Medical Officers at the AHCCCS Administration in Phoenix. This will be the last IHS Directors meeting for 2013. The meeting agenda has not been developed.

## Non-Quarterly Special Tribal Consultation Meetings

**May 13, 2013** – A special AHCCCS and ADHS meeting was held at the AHCCCS Administration with the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and the Tohono O’odham Nation to discuss state licensure of non-IHS and non-638 health care facilities operating on Tribal lands. The following were topics of discussion:

- Timeline and update of the Licensure Issue
- Tribal Update meeting with HHS Secretary Sebelius and CMS
- Provider Options
- Tribal Feedback on Provider Options
- Next Steps

**June 25, 2013** – A special Tribal Consultation by teleconference was held to discuss Medicaid and CHIP MAGI Eligibility and Benefits, and Miscellaneous State Plan Amendments (SPAs). The following were topics of discussion:

- Medicaid Magi Eligibility & Benefits SPAs
- CHIP MAGI Eligibility SPAs
- KidsCare Wait List SPA

**July 24, 2013** - A special AHCCCS and ADHS meeting was held at the AHCCCS Administration with the Hopi Tribe to discuss state licensure of non-IHS and non-638 health care facilities operating on Hopi lands. The following were topics of discussion:



- Review of IHS/638 Facilities Matrix
- Overview and Summary of Ownership of Hopi Assisted Living Facility
- Discussion on Provider Options
- Additional Facilities Impacted

**August 1, 2013** - A special AHCCCS and ADHS meeting was held at the AHCCCS Administration with the Tohono O'odham Nation to discuss state licensure of non-IHS and non-638 health care facilities operating on Tohono O'odham lands. The following were topics of discussion:

- Review of IHS/638 Facilities Matrix
- Overview and Summary of Ownership of Tohono O'odham Assisted Living Facility
- Discussion on Provider Options
- Additional Facilities Impacted

**September 18, 2013** – A special Tribal Consultation meeting is scheduled with Tribes and I/T/Us to discuss the future of the 1115 Waiver and various State Plan Amendments (SPAs). The agenda is in development.

**September 30, 2013** - A special AHCCCS and ADHS Tribal Consultation meeting is scheduled with the Navajo Nation at Fort Defiance on the Navajo Reservation to discuss state licensure of non-IHS and non-638 health care facilities operating on Tribal lands. The agenda has not been developed.

## Accomplishments/Announcements

The following are AHCCCS tribal outreach events that have and will be of benefit to both Tribes and the State.

**February and March 2013** – Throughout February and March, seven (7) AHCCCS Tribal and General Community Forums were held to discuss and inform the public about the Governor's proposed Medicaid Expansion Plan. The Forums were held throughout the state including the communities of:

- Phoenix
- Yavapai Apache Nation in Camp Verde
- Flagstaff
- Gila River Indian Community
- Yuma
- Thatcher
- Tucson

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The outcome of these Forums resulted in overwhelming public support of the Governor's Proposed Medicaid Restoration Plan and in part contributed to the successful passage of the Medicaid Expansion Bill passed by the State Legislature in June 2013.

**September and October 2013** – The AHCCCS Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Tribal Relations Office will conduct ***Medicaid Moving Forward: Tribal & Community Forums*** throughout the state during the months of September and October. AHCCCS representatives will provide information on how the agency is moving forward with the passage of the Governor's Medicaid Restoration Plan and upcoming changes to Arizona's Medicaid Program (AHCCCS). The Forums will be an opportunity for the public to provide input and ask questions. Please note: Forum sessions have been reserved specifically for Tribal stakeholders but tribal members are welcome to attend any of the other scheduled sessions. Additional information can be found at the *AHCCCS Moving Forward* webpage including a schedule of the Forums: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/publicnotices/MovingForward.aspx>  
Contact Bonnie Talakte, AHCCCS Tribal Relations Liaison, if you have questions: (602) 417-4610 or [bonnie.talakte@azahcccs.gov](mailto:bonnie.talakte@azahcccs.gov)

**October 3, 2013** – AHCCCS will host a ***Facilitated Discussion on Continuity of Operations (COOP): The AHCCCS Procedure on Disaster Response and Mitigation***. This facilitated discussion is intended to be an AHCCCS member focused exercise that will highlight communication between Arizona Tribal Nations and AHCCCS in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. This two-way communication is seen as an opportunity to work with Tribal governments in the event of an emergency or natural disaster affecting AHCCCS Tribal long-term care members. Discussion will focus on topics such as Rights of Entry coordination (entering Tribal lands) and logistics (e.g., coordinating necessary transportation, providing durable medical equipment and medications). The meeting will be held at the **Cliff Castle Casino Conference Center on the Yavapai-Apache Nation in Camp Verde, AZ on October 3, 2013, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

As this is the first AHCCCS seminar of this type, we encourage your attendance as Tribal participation is critical in order to make this a meaningful event. Please RSVP by sending an email to Bonnie Talakte at: [bonnie.talakte@azahcccs.gov](mailto:bonnie.talakte@azahcccs.gov) or Kevin Neill at: [kevin.neill@azahcccs.gov](mailto:kevin.neill@azahcccs.gov)

## **Additional Information**

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