

**Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)  
Annual Agency Report on Tribal Outreach Activities  
State Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015**

**Introduction**

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Tribal Consultation Policy was adopted by the AHCCCS Administration and incorporated into its administrative policy in fiscal year 2007. 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. The AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy was updated and approved on October 21, 2014.

**Consultation Activities**

The following goals, objectives and activities reflect consultation with tribes, tribal leaders, tribal members, IHS, 93-638 tribal health facilities and urban tribal health facilities from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Throughout that time, AHCCCS conducted ten (10) formal consultation meetings, five (5) special teleconference consultations with Tribes, two (2) tribal consultation workgroup meetings, six (6) tribal requested meetings, seven (7) tribal outreach and education presentations and technical assistance, two (2) Tribal Forums and five (5) internal staff presentations on the AHCCCS tribal consultation policy and on tribal protocol. All meetings, workgroups, forums and presentations were held to obtain tribal input, provide information and 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). The goals in following table are found in the AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Policy.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activity and Performance Objective</b>
1. Set timely consultation with Arizona Indian Tribes.	1a. Develop calendar of Tribal consultation meetings for 2014-2015.	1a. Schedule of formal consultation meetings was developed and distributed to AHCCCS tribal partners on the AHCCCS Tribal Relations listserv.
2. Allow for consultation with Indian tribes in the development of new policy or a change in policy with substantial tribal implications, including State Plan Amendments (SPA) and Waiver Proposals that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	2a. Host consultation meetings according to consultation calendar.	2a. AHCCCS held ten (10) formal tribal consultation meetings on; 8/21/14, 9/18/14, 10/16/14, 12/3/14, 12/18/14, 1/21/15, 3/5/15, 3/19/15, 4/7/15, 4/16/15. Five (5) special teleconference consultation meetings were held on; 2/18/15, 3/4/15, 5/4/15, 6/9/15, 6/17/15 and two (2) Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) tribal workgroup meetings were held on 3/17/15 and 6/9/15. Consultation meetings were held with tribal members, tribal leaders, IHS, 93-638 tribal health facilities and urban health

		facilities. All meetings and workgroups were held to obtain tribal input, provide information and updates and to discuss policy and programmatic changes. Meetings were held at the AHCCCS Administrative offices, or via teleconference and on tribal lands.
3. Provide opportunities for Tribes to request tribal consultation on specific topics or issues affecting one or more Indian Tribe(s).	3a. By request from the Navajo Nation, meet to discuss State health facility licensing procedures.	3a. <u>8/15/2014</u> – Agency met with the Navajo Nation in regard to licensing IGA of non-IHS/non-93-638 private health facilities operating on the Navajo Nation.
	3b. By request from the Hopi Tribe, meet to discuss health support service options.	3b. <u>9/18/2014</u> – Agency met with the Hopi Tribe on Cancer Support Services for tribal members.
	3c. By request from the Gila River Indian Community meet to discuss State health facility licensing procedures.	3c. <u>11/4/2014</u> – Agency met with Gila River Indian Community to discuss the licensing of a new residential youth facility.
	3d. Same as 3c	3d. <u>12/5/2014</u> – Continued Agency discussions with Gila River Indian Community on the licensing of a new residential youth facility.
	3e. Same as 3c	3e. <u>4/10/2015</u> – Continued Agency discussions with Gila River Indian Community to finalize the licensing of a new residential youth facility and tour of the facility.
	3f. Government-to-government meeting with the San Carlos Apache Tribe to negotiate new state RBHA tribal placement.	3f. <u>5/27/2015</u> – AHCCCS and ADHS executives met with San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Rambler, in San Carlos, to discuss the Chairman’s request to have the Tribe placed in the southern Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) boundary to receive behavioral healthcare from Cenpatico. The Chairman’s request was approved on June 11, 2015.
4. Work with Tribes to increase their knowledge and understanding of AHCCCS programs and policies.	4a. Provide continuous tribal outreach and education.	4a. Per request from the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), AHCCCS Tribal Liaison presented general AHCCCS information on two (2) occasions to the Tribal Social Services Workgroup on the following dates: 8/14/14 and 11/12/14
	4b. Same as above	4b. Per request from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), AHCCCS Tribal Liaison provided presentations on two (2) occasions at Indian Health Service (IHS) tribal health staff trainings on AHCCCS topics in Phoenix and on the Navajo Nation on the following dates: 11/21/14 and 5/12/15

	4c. Same as above	4c. Per request from the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), AHCCCS Tribal Liaison provided an overview of AHCCCS services at a presentation to CRIT Tribal Council on the CRIT Nation on 2/9/15.
	4d. Provide technical assistance to resolve issues.	4d. Per the request from ITCA, AHCCCS Tribal Liaison served on the Tribal Foster Care Workgroup representing the Agency. The workgroup met on two (2) occasions on 3/27/15 and 6/11/15 to discuss and resolve issues regarding the continuation of Medicaid services to tribal youth who were under tribal jurisdiction and “aged out” of foster care.
5. Allow for consultation with Indian tribes in the development of new policy or a change in policy with substantial tribal implications.	5a. Conduct regional state tribal forums to gather input from tribes.	5a. Agency conducted two (2) State regional tribal forums on 7/24/14 and 7/31/14 to gather input from tribes on the AHCCCS proposed Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Broker model.
6. Coordinate within the Agency to ensure consistent application of the tribal consultation policy.	6a. Conduct on-going internal tribal consultation policy and tribal protocol presentations to AHCCCS staff.	6a. AHCCCS Tribal Liaison conducted five (5) internal staff presentations on the following dates: 8/20/14, 12/16 & 18/2014, 3/24/15, 6/11/15

**Tribal Request:**

Upon request from 93-638 Tribal Health Directors, additional consultation meetings were scheduled for this group during 2014 and 2015 to address specific health issues and to accommodate needs specific to each 93-638 tribe. Meetings with 93-638 Tribal Health Directors occur twice a year, on an on-going basis, and are held at the AHCCCS Administrative Offices.

**Tribal Consultation Policy:** The AHCCCS tribal consultation policy was updated on October 21, 2014 and is current.

**For questions or more information contact:**

**Bonnie Talakte**

Tribal Relations Liaison

AHCCCS Office of Intergovernmental Relations

801 E. Jefferson, MD-4100 | Phoenix, AZ 85034

(602) 417-4610 (Office) | (602) 256-6756 (Fax)

[Bonnie.Talakte@azahcccs.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Talakte@azahcccs.gov)

