

## Toiyabe Indian Health Project

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Reimbursement Agreement for
Veterans

#### Introduction

- The Toiyabe Indian Health Project was founded in 1968 as a coordinated tribal healthcare program representing nine Indian tribes within Inyo and Mono Counties.
- TIHP operates three clinics in Bishop, Lone Pine and Coleville. The Coleville Clinic has been awarded a New Access Point grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and opened on 2/18/14.

## Toiyabe's Mission and Values

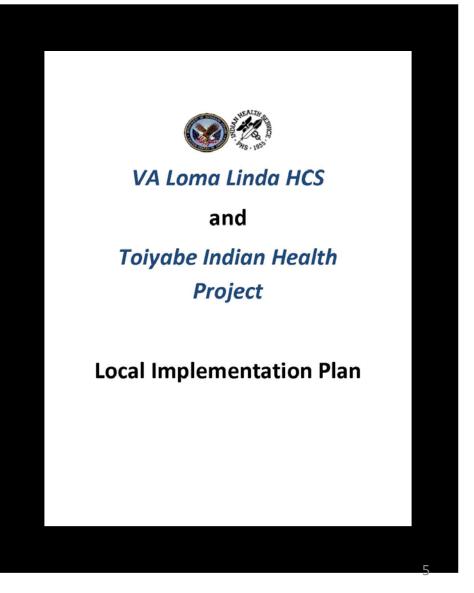
- The mission of Toiyabe Indian Health Project (TIHP) is to improve and establish programs, policies and actions which focus on developing and maintaining healthy individuals, families and Indian communities while fostering tribal sovereignty, selfsufficiency and cultural values.
- Our values are to improve the quality of life for all member tribes and empower Indian communities to be physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally healthy.

## TIHP Work Prior to Agreement

- In 2013, TIHP began work to increase our involvement in care for Veterans
- We held a series of individual & group sessions with Veterans, and local and state VA leadership
- We then began work to formalize our agreement with the VA
- We received vital support from our TIHP Board of Directors

## TIHP Work Prior to Agreement, cont'd.

- We developed a Local Implementation Plan with the VA, & both organizations reviewed and approved it
- We provided an overview and orientation of our Local Implementation Plan with local tribes and our staff
- We determined our site readiness and ultimately utilized our CMS certification to verify our commitment to high quality care



## Veterans Affairs Renewed Commitment to Tribes

- Toiyabe Indian Health Project has recently formalized a "Direct Care Services Reimbursement Agreement" with the Veterans Affairs.
- The goal of the agreement is to provide improved access by Toiyabe Indian Health Project for direct care services for eligible Veterans, and to formalize the mechanism for reimbursement by the Veterans Affairs.

## How Do We Accomplish That?

- Now that our reimbursement agreement has been signed and is in place, we've begun providing training to our enrollment and billing staff
- Enrollment and billing staff assist local Veterans with applying for Veterans Affairs Health Benefits
- We've completed the forms to allow electronic billing claims processing by the VA (Emdeon)

### Veterans Affairs 10-10EZ Form

- The VA 10-10EZ is the form to apply for health benefits
- Clinic staff should ask every patient if they or anyone in their household served in the military
- Offer to assist Veteran to enroll for health benefits using: VA 10-10EZ Form found @ www.va.gov

M Donartmant of	Veterans Affairs	APPLICATION FOR HEALTH BENEFITS						
Department of		NI-GENERAL INFORMATION						
Federal law provides crimis				or up to 5 v	ears, for cor	cealing a material fac		
or making a materially false	e statement. (See 18 U.S.C	C. 1001)						
1. VETERAN'S NAME (Last, First, Middle)	(ane)	2, OTHER NA	MES USED	3. MOTHER'S MA	IDEN NAME	4. GENDER  MALE FEMALE		
5. ARE YOU SPANISH, HISPANIC, OR LATIF	6. WHAT IS YOUR RACE? (	You may check m	sore than one.) (Informatic	on is required for s	statistical purpose.	s only.)		
YES NO	AMERICAN INDIA  ASIAN	OR ALASKA NA		BLACK OR AFRIC		IFIC ISLANDER		
7. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	8. VA CLAIM NUMBER			9. DATE OF BIRT	H (mm/dd/yyy)			
9A. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State)				10. RELIGION				
11. PERMANENT ADDRESS (Street)	11A, CITY		118	I, STATE 1:	IC, ZIP CODE			
11D COUNTY	sur house year	DUONE NUMBER	R (Include area code)	11F, E-MAII	ADDRESS			
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11G. CELLULAR TELEPHONE NUMBER (În	clude area code)		BENEFIT(S) APPLYING F DILIMENT/HEALTH SERVIO TAL		k more than one)			
<ol> <li>WHICH VA MEDICAL CENTER OR OUT (for listing of facilities visit www.va.gow/dir</li> </ol>	PATIENT CLINIC DO YOU PREFER?	AS ONE	WANT AN APPOINTMENT BECOMES AVAILABLE?					
15. CURRENT MARITAL STATUS (Check on	e) MARRIED	NEVER MARRI				ORCED UNKNOWN		
16, NAME, ADDRESS AND RELATIONSHIP	OF NEXT OF KIN					E NUMBER (Include area code)  E NUMBER (Include area code)		
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			178	EMERGENCY CO (Include area cos	ONTACT'S WORK	TELEPHONE NUMBER		
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2. NAME OF POLICY HOLDER	3, POLICY NUMBER 4, GF	OUP CODE	5. ARE YOU ELIGIBLE F	OR MEDICAID?	5A, EFFECTIVE	DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)		
6 ARE YOU ENROLLED IN MEDICARE HOS	PITAL INSURANCE PART A? Y	ES NO	6A. EFFECTIVE DATE	mm/dd/yyyy)				
ARE YOU ENROLLED IN MEDICARE HOS	PITAL INSURANCE PART B?	ES NO	7A. EFFECTIVE DATE	(mm/dd/yyyy)				
8. NAME EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YO	9, MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER							

#### Veterans Affairs DD-214 Form

- Veterans will need their DD-214 form verifying their separation from active duty →
- If they don't have their DD-214, they can request a copy of that online at: www.dd214.us
- Inform Veterans that enrollment may take 2 weeks & provide them local VA contact information-it's important to work closely with your local VA office

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# VA and Tribal Health Direct Care Services Reimbursement Agreement

- Our reimbursement sharing agreement provides a mechanism for requesting reimbursement from the VA for health care provided to tribal Veterans
- Work with your local VA office/staff to map out the processes to pre-authorize patient care if needed
- Typically, only non-tribal Veterans require preauthorization for care
- Tribal Veterans do not require preauthorization for care (emergency care requires 72 hour notification to the VA once care is received)

## Breaking down Myths

- Many Veterans believe that if they receive health care from the VA, they can't receive health care from tribal health centers
- This isn't true, as they can receive care from both entities
- Many Veterans who visit tribal health clinics are not aware that they are eligible to receive VA health benefits
- If they are granted VA health benefits, it's beneficial for tribal health clinics as it increases their third-party revenues

#### Collaboration

Utilize Veteran organizations to ramp up Veteran outreach, education and enrollment:

- California Department of Veterans Affairs at: www.cdva.ca.gov
- California Association of County Veterans
   Service Officers (CACVSO) at: <a href="www.cacvso.org">www.cacvso.org</a>
- The American Legion at: www.legion.org/serviceofficers
- Tribal Veteran Representatives



#### Good Luck!

- It's been an honor to advocate for our Veterans and share this information with you
- Contact Information:
  - David Lent, TIHP, david.lent@toiyabe.us
  - Libby Watanabe, TIHP,
     libby.watanabe@toiyabe.
     us

