

# Indian Health Service

## Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Updates

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OCTOBER 2023



# Current National CHAP Team



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# Update Items

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- Workgroups for NSP (DHA, BHA, CHA SME's)
- NCB Charter
- Standards and Procedures
- Project Timeline – additional detail regarding the SORN and NSP steps



# National CHAP Workgroups

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- Tasked with working National Standards and Procedures
- Looking for members from each area to each specialty workgroup
- Each group has it's own workgroup and Federal Lead
  - CHA – Dion Reid
  - BHA - Bobby Jo Peltier
  - DHA – Dr. Cheryl Sikiller



# NCB Charter Update & Discussion

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- NCB Charter & DTLL finalized consultation version with legal recommendation for privilege preservation.
- Purpose: Ensure transparency & inclusivity, shared with CHAP TAG/Tribal consultation, redline edits for discussion.
- Alignment: Suggestions underwent review to meet regulatory & policy requirements.
- CHAP Team: Facilitate process, distribute consultation version.
- Importance of CHAP TAG: Provide insights, shape final version through feedback.
- Collaborative Approach: Engage stakeholders & experts for comprehensive NCB Charter.
- Next Steps: Share version with CHAP TAG for constructive discussions & refinement.
- Goal: Meet regulatory requirements, serve all parties' interests.



# Area Certification Boards

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- Each Area will have final say on the makeup of their certification board
- Area Certification Boards will set standards and procedures that meet or exceed NSP
- ACB will have an Academic review component
- This is the body that will certify CHAs, BHAs, and DHAs in their respective Areas



# System of Records Update

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- **SORN draft package submitted to OPM and Congress, expecting it back October 18<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Next steps:**
  - Publish in the Federal Register for 30 day comment period
  - All comments reviewed
  - Changes made if appropriate
  - If changes are substantial, the SORN is republished for an additional 30 days
  - If no changes are made, the SORN goes into effect
  - National CHAP Application Form will go for approval with OPM while the SORN is posted on the Federal Register.



# National Standards and Procedures

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- The review of the NSP were agreed upon to be done through the workgroups within the CHAP TAG in preparation for consultation.
- This approach is intended to streamline preparing for Tribal consultation. The intended steps were:
  - CHAP TAG appoints workgroup members
  - CHAP HQ Leads will meet at least once a month with the workgroups
  - CHAP HQ Leads will update the CHAP TAG at each monthly meeting on behalf of each workgroup of the developments
  - Pending finalization of initial review, CHAP HQ Leads and workgroup will present their recommendations to the CHAP TAG
  - IHS will issue Tribal consultation including all the CHAP TAG recommendations born out of the workgroups





# CMS and State Plan Amendments

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- Oregon was able to get SPA in place relatively easily
- Washington SPA was not granted and Washington Health Authority and Swinomish Tribe petitioned the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court overturning the CMS decision
- Idaho is in the process of putting a SPA in place



# Looking Forward

## **Next CHAP TAG Meeting (Tentative):**

December in Alaska pending Alaska Area approvals.

# General Contact Information

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- **National Community Health Aide Program**

- Email: [IHSCCHAP@ihs.gov](mailto:IHSCCHAP@ihs.gov)
- Web: [www.ihs.gov/chap](http://www.ihs.gov/chap)
- ListServe: [CHAP ListServ](#)



# Resources

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- IHS CHAP Site
- IHS Community Education
- Alaska CHAP Site
- CHAP Policy
- CHAP TAG Charter
- Northwest Portland Area CHAP



