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, self-sufficiency 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
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.
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 pre-authorization 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: www.cacvso.org

• 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