

NIHB Public Health Policy and Programs Department Meeting Summary

Indian Health Service, Division of Behavioral Health

National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health (NTAC)

IN-PERSON MEETING

December 20-21, 2018

IHS Albuquerque Area Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Attendees:

NTAC Members

- Theresa Galvan, Health Services Administrator, Navajo Nation (Tribal Co-Chair, Navajo Area)
- Adrienne Tiller, Tohono O'odham Legislative Council (Tucson Area)
- Cassandra Sellards Reck, Tribal Council Member, Cowlitz Tribe, (Portland Area)
- Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, Tribal Council Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (Nashville Area)
- Jay Keel, Admin, Secretary, Department of Family Services, Chickasaw Nation (Oklahoma Area)
- Jennifer Showalter Yeoman, Chairperson, Kenaitze Indian Tribe (Alaska Area)
- Roman Duran, Lt. Gov., Pueblo of Tesuque (Albuquerque Area)*
- Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, Councilwoman, Havasupai Tribe (Phoenix Area)*
- Tara Ford, Community Health Services Regional Administrator, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (Alaska Area) (*Virtual*)

* *indicates Point of Contact*

Indian Health Service (IHS)

- Amanda Bradley, Area Project Officer, DBH
- Anna Johnson, Management Analyst, DBH
- Audrey Solimon, Public Health Analyst, DBH
- Ben Smith, Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs
- Dr. Beverly Cotton, Acting Director, Office of Clinical & Preventive Services (*Virtual*)
- Dr. Joel Beckstead, Alcohol & Substance Abuse Program Lead, DBH (*Virtual*)
- Jonah Begay, Management Analyst, Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence, Albuquerque Area
- Mary Toledo, Management Analyst, Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence, Albuquerque Area
- Miranda Carman, Acting Director, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) (Federal Co-Chair)

National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

- Gerry RainingBird, Behavioral Health Manager
- Courtney Wheeler, Public Health Project Coordinator

National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)

- Julia Dreyer, Director, Federal Relations

Attendees:

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- ShaQuilla Yazzie, Planner, Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral & Mental Health Services
- Stacey Chester, Planner, Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral & Mental Health Services
- Walter Murillo, CEO, Native Health of Phoenix

Summary:

Nine NTAC members along with IHS staff and representatives from NIHB and NCUIH were present at the 2-day NTAC meeting in Albuquerque, NM. During the 2-day meeting members discussed previous meeting summaries and the IHS provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Initiative Funding Follow-up Items, including a matrix detailing the differences between Title I Contracting and Title V Compacting compared to grant provisions. The NIHB provided a budget overview of their cooperative agreement work plan activities and NCUIH provided a cooperative agreement fact sheet. The NTAC members contemplated the pros and cons of the funding mechanism for behavioral health funding and drafted a letter to RADM Weahkee with recommendations on behavioral health funding. The NTAC also voted on the charter as well as voted to keep Theresa Galvan as Tribal Co-Chair. The NTAC members requested supplemental information from DBH for the March and May in-person meeting.

NOTE: All meeting materials are located online at:

<https://www.ihs.gov/dbh/consultationandconfer/moreinformation/>

NOTE: NTAC requested follow-up action items by Friday, January 4. (IHS clarified that we may not be able to commit to this if there is a lapse in appropriations resulting in a government shutdown).

DAY 1

NTAC Business:

- **NTAC Meeting Summaries:** Attendees were given copies of the October 25-26, 2018 in-person meeting summary.
- **NTAC Charter:** The NTAC members voted and approved the Charter with the following changes:
 - **5. MEETINGS:** Depending on the availability of funds, the NTAC will convene at least one face-to-face meeting each year. Other meetings, by means of teleconference, etc., will be convened as needed.
 - **REVISED - 5. MEETINGS:** Depending on the availability of funds, the NTAC will convene up to four face-to-face meeting each year. Other meetings, by means of teleconference, etc., will be convened as needed.
 - **MOTION** to approve – Cassandra Sellards Reck (Portland Area Representative)
 - **Second** Adrienne Tiller (Tucson Area Representative)
 - Carried unanimously
 - The NTAC then motioned to incorporate edit and move forward through processing for final.
 - **MOTION** to approve – Cassandra Sellards Reck (Portland Area Representative)
 - **Second** Jay Keel (Oklahoma Area)
 - Carried unanimously.
- **NTAC Representation:** There was discussion of NTAC Officers per guidance in the Charter [Section C. Officers & D. Re-election]. An election had not previously occurred.
 - **MOTION** (Albuquerque Area Representative –Mr. Roman Duran): Retain Theresa

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Galvan as Tribal Co-Chair.

- **Second** Adrienne Tiller (Tucson Area Representative)
- **No opposition – motion carried and accepted**
- **Urban Indian Organizations:** NTAC recognizes and supports Urban Indian Organizations who are very important and advocates to include a set-aside to continue funding programs.
- **Key Dates:** NTAC in-person meeting will be held May 13-14, prior to/in conjunction with Annual Behavioral Health Conference happening May 15-17 in Albuquerque, NM

Behavioral Health Initiative Funding Follow-up Overview:

Miranda Carman provided an overview of the current funding mechanism to distribute behavioral health funds administered through the Division of Grants Management compared to behavioral health funding through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA). The overview identified three behavioral health initiatives: 1) Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Program (SASPP), 2) Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP), and 3) Zero Suicide Initiative (ZSI) (no funding formula, awarded in rank order).

- Following the overview, NTAC representatives discussed the information provided as well as the matrix detailing the differences between Title I Contracting and Title V Compacting compared to the grants process. During the discussion, the NTAC members requested a breakdown NIHB's budget for the NIHOE II Cooperative Agreement to assist in making recommendation.
- Questions/Requests:
 - NTAC members asked for Stacey Bohlen, NIHB CEO to call in to answer questions about the NIHOE II Cooperative Agreement budget. Both Stacy and Carolyn Hornbuckle, Director, Public Health Policy and Programs joined the meeting virtually.
 - **Request:** NIHB to provide an overview of the project's (cooperative agreement) budget to help assist in making recommendations.
- Portland Area (Cassandra Sellards Reck) provided a copy of a letter NPAIHB submitted to RADM Weahkee regarding the current funding mechanism to distribute behavioral health initiatives funds and their recommendations.
- Alaska Area (Jennifer Showalter Yeoman) also provided a copy of a letter sent to RADM Weahkee in response to his May 18, 2018 Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL).

Final comments before adjourning:

- The NTAC members decided to examine the matrix and other information provided overnight and comeback the next day with recommendation to submit via letter to RADM Weahkee.
- Tribal Caucus will take place at 8:00 am – 9:00 am before meeting starts.

DAY 2

The NTAC members were in caucus from 8:00 am – 11:15 am. During caucus Miranda Carman and Anna Johnson were invited in the room to answer budget questions.

General IHS NTAC Information Requests (for upcoming meeting)

- During the December 2018 meeting, the DBH presented a hypothetical example of how Tribe's shares could be impacted if the Agency changed from the current funding formula to a formula based on Tribal shares.

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- What funding formula was utilized to determine the amounts?
- \$11m set aside

NTAC members went back into caucus to draft and complete a letter with behavioral health initiative funding recommendations to RADM Weahkee.

IHS Recommendations (Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs) to NTAC:

- Seek presentation time on the IHS BFWG agenda to provide update and seek input on NTAC recommendations that may impact future IHS budgets
 - Provide updates at Direct Service Tribes and Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee Meetings
- Read the GAO Report: [“IHS: Spending Levels and Characteristics of IHS and Three Other Federal Health Care Programs.”](#)
 - Summary: The report identifies several key differences in terms of design and structure, funding, and populations served, between IHS and three other federal health programs--the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Medicaid, and Medicare. For example, Medicare and Medicaid are entitlement programs and have no annual spending caps, while IHS and VHA have funding that is largely determined through the annual appropriations process and have specific spending limits. Other important differences include: (1) program design and structure, (2) funding mechanism, (3) service availability, and (4) population needs and services provided.

Discussion on next steps:

1. Requests for March and May meetings

- a. Reports from each APO detailing their work and projects
 - i. What is role of an APO? What is the role of a BH Consultant? What is their value? Are they doing what they should be?
 - ii. APO Area Reports
 - iii. APO Meeting Minutes – Disseminate APO conference call minutes to NTAC members (to ensure everyone is on the same page) to help demonstrate how collective work ties into the TBHA
- b. Reports from TECs
 - i. How is IHS currently collecting data on these grants and how are the TECs involved?
 - ii. TEC Meeting Minutes – Disseminate TEC conference call minutes to NTAC members (to ensure everyone is on the same page) to help demonstrate how collective work ties into the TBHA.
 - iii. Scope of Work for all TECs
 - iv. TEC Reports (from all 12 TECs receiving funding explaining a status of work completed by each Area)
- c. An update on the National Evaluation Report (as mentioned by Raven Ross)
- d. IHS Behavioral Health Strategic Plan (status update, where are we and how do we move forward)
- e. Congressional Report on behavioral health legislation (last available/published)
- f. Discussion of the TBHA and how it aligns with IHS work (update for how to engage with SAMHSA and other OPDIVs)

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- g. EPI Reports – Area level
- h. BHC & APO job descriptions (including salary amounts)
- i. Other Positions supported by National Management – descriptions and salary amounts for consultants, coordinators, etc.

Assigned to: IHS Headquarters, DBH

- 2. Meeting Request with RADM Weahkee:** NTAC requested a face to face meeting with RADM Weahkee at earliest convenience to discuss December 21, 2018 letter identifying NTAC recommendations. NTAC requested IHS does not engage in consultation on NTAC recommendations until NTAC is afforded an opportunity to fully explain and discuss recommendations with IHS Senior leadership.

- Ideally in conjunction with other meetings, such as Budget Formulation Workgroup Meeting (NTAC Tribal Co-Chair, Theresa Galvan will attend on behalf of NTAC and provide virtual details).

Assigned to: Ben Smith to coordinate with Office of Tribal Self-Governance, Office of Direct Service & Contracting Tribes, and Division of Grants Management

- Oklahoma Area (Jay Keel, Administrator, Secretary, Department of Family Services, Chickasaw Nation: Are there other areas to consider [for funding]? We would like to consider those.
 - *Assigned to: IHS DBH – Are there other funding sources to consider?*

- 3. What is the amount of excess funds that have been carried over year to year?**

Assigned to: IHS DBH – NTAC request: Explanation for the amount of excess behavioral health initiative funds that have been carried over from year to year and how they are expended.

- 4. Scope of work:** Contracts/Contractors, and Cooperative Agreements (ex: start & end date, videos, recruitment efforts, etc.):

- a. Education Development Center
- b. HORNE Creative Group
 - i. NTAC gravely concerned about HORNE’s CEO description of “years of performing for drunks in bars...”which is harmful to IHS.
 - ii. End Products? NTAC concerned online web/media campaigns are ineffective due to dead links. EX: NTAC pulled up IHS website: www.ihs.gov/mspi/campaigns/ and clicked on substance abuse prevention (file not found), clicked on bullying prevention (file not found), clicked on suicide prevention (file not found).
 - iii. NTAC explained high volume of vacancies in BH positions and inquired what HORNE is doing to help recruit and fill those vacancies.
- c. Johns Hopkin’s University
- d. International Association of Forensic Nursing (start and end date)

Assigned to: IHS DBH – NTAC request information on the above items. The scope of work, the start and end dates of their work as well as products from their work.

Follow-up:

1. Push for missing Area Representatives to attend meetings – Theresa Galvan

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2. NTAC to determine percentages - NTAC
3. Items to NTAC so they can clean-up tables in the letter to RADM Weahkee –Miranda Carmen
4. **Meeting (IHS NTAC & Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC) Meeting:** Theresa Galvan indicated Mirtha Beadle (SAMHSA) will be contacting the IHS Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) to help organize a joint meeting between the two Tribal advisory committees as a follow-up from the July 2018 Partnerships to Advance Tribal Health Joint Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting. The purpose of the joint meeting is to identify opportunities to partner on addressing the Tribal Behavioral Health Agenda (TBHA).
 - **Date:** week of March 10/11 (TBD)
 - **Location:** California Area (TBD)
 - **Schedule:** convene IHS NTAC and SAMHSA TTAC for one day; and convene IHS NTAC for two days (invite Area Project Officers (APOs), Behavioral Health (BH) Consultants, & Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) since their work aligns with the TBHA)