NIHB UPDATE TO THE
IHS DIRECT SERVICE TRIBES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2019

Sooner Davenport, Policy Coordinator-DST Specialist, NIHB
What’s New: The NIHB Executive Board

The new NIHB Committee Members are:

- **Chairperson (2019 - 2021):** Victoria Kitcheyan, Great Plains Area, *Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska*

- **Vice-Chair (2019 – 2020):** William Smith, Alaska Area, *Valdez Native Tribe*

- **Secretary (2019 – 2021):** Lisa Elgin, California Area, *Manchester-Pt. Arena Band of Pomo Indians*

- **Member – at – Large (2019 – 2020):** Andrew Joseph Jr., Portland Area, *Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation*

- The position of **Treasurer** is continuing its current term and is held by **Samuel Moose**, Bemidji Area, *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe*
Indian Health Service Appropriations FY 2020

NIHB testified on March 6 – House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Testimony included the following recommendations:
• Advance Appropriations
• End to Sequestration
• Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup request of $7.1 Billion for IHS
IHS Bills on Advance Appropriations

Three bills have been introduced:

1. S.229 – 
   Sponsor: Sen. Udall (D-NM)

   Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act

2. H.R. 1128 – 
   Sponsor: Rep. McCollum (D-MN)

   IHS Services and CSC as well as BIA

3. H.R. 1135 – 
   Sponsor: Rep. Don Young (R-AK)

   IHS Advance Appropriations Act

- All of IHS, BIA not included
SDPI Expiring: September 30, 2019

• Congressional Sign on letter is open—Congressional Outreach needed!

• Senate HELP Committee leaders introduced a 5 year renewal for SDPI at the current $150 million/ year

• House will take separate legislation for each program – 5 years likely, hopefully funding increase.
  • Rep. O’Halleran (D-AZ) to introduce SDPI bill.

• Working with partners at American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Endocrine Society to increase funding to $200 million
Bill Reintroduced: Assessment of the Indian Health Service Act of 2019

- Introduced **S. 498** on February 14, 2019 by Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD)
- Calls upon the Secretary of HHS to contract an assessment of the IHS health care delivery systems and financial management process at Direct Service sites
- The assessment will be used to examine areas of improvement
- Tribal Consultation will be taken with Tribes to address the identified areas for improvement
Bill Reintroduced: Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC)

- Introduced S.524 on February 14, 2019 by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) to create a TAC at the VA
- The TAC would advise the Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs (VA) on matters impacting Native American veterans
- Similar legislation was introduced in 2018
- Sen. Tester is the Ranking Member of the Senate VA Committee and is a former chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- The VA TAC Bill includes the following provisions:
  - Ensured representation for Tribes in each IHS Service Area
  - Requirement that half of TAC members serving are also veterans
  - The VA TAC would meet twice annually with the VA Secretary
  - Requires the VA to submit an annual report to Congress that includes Tribal recommendations
Communications from Congress

• Senate Democrats Letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar - March 6, 2019
• House Energy and Commerce (ENC) Committee Letter to IHS - March 7, 2019
Indian Health Service Appropriations FY 2019

• February 15, 2019, full year IHS appropriations enacted
• Includes $5.8 billion for IHS, which is $268 million above the FY 2018 level
• $10 million for a Behavioral Health program modeled on SDPI
• SDPI to continue as mandatory
• CHRs are funded at FY 2018 level
• Health Education program funded with $700K increase
National HIV/AIDS Strategy Update

• The current national strategy was last updated in 2015 and expires in 2020

• HHS issued a request for information (RFI) to inform both the National HIV/AIDS Strategy; and the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan

Previous Activities:
• Listening Session: September 2018, Orlando
• Listening Session, February 2019, in Washington, D.C.
• National call was held on March 1, 2019
• NIHB submitted written comments on March 11th
Work Requirements Update

• On January 18, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Arizona’s 1115 Medicaid Demonstration waiver with an exemption for members of Federally recognized Tribes.
• Work requirements in Arizona will not be implemented until January 1, 2020.
• Tribes in AZ are in discussion with the state on what implementation will look like.
• CMS’ decision in AZ is likely going to set a precedent for other states, including states that have pending or approved 1115 Waivers.
Health IT Regulations Activity

- NIHB Submitted Comments on January 28, 2019
- HHS has also issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that focuses on the ability of a patient to access their Electronic Health Information
  - Comment Due Date, TBA
    - CMS is releasing two RFIs to obtain feedback on interoperability and health information technology
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

• **Farm Bill Signed into Law on December 20, 2018**
  - Expansion of Self-Governance authorities to administer the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
    - Expansion approved as demonstration project
    - $5 million in appropriations needed to fund the demonstration

• **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Work Requirements**
  - Proposed regulatory implementation published on February 1, 2019, -- Comments due April 2, 2019
Managed Care Issues in Indian Country

- Indian Health Care Providers not being paid or payments are late
- Auto-enrollment in Managed Care Organizations in order to access certain services
- CMS Policies on Managed Care Include:
  - Informational Bulletin (December 14, 2016)
  - CMS Proposed Rules on Managed Care
- TTAG Letter on Managed Care Issues (January 30, 2019)
- TTAG Met with Jim Golden, Director of Managed Care at CMS
Dear Tribal Leader Letter: Health Resources & Services Administration

• February 25, 2019: HRSA issued a DTLL of proposed changes to the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scoring process
• Updates to the scoring method are tentatively planned for spring/early summer
• Updated HPSA scores will be used in the 2020 National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps application cycles
• Facilities will remain as designated Auto-HPSAs, despite changes to scoring
HHS Annual Tribal Budget Consultation

- Consultation will take place **April 23-24, 2019**
- **HHS is accepting written testimony from Tribes until Thursday, April 18, 2019**
- HHS will be holding planning calls with Tribes

Call In Number: 866-617-3597 | Participant Code: 3464707

- March 20, 2019 @ 3:00 PM ET
- March 27, 2019 @ 3:00 PM ET
- April 3, 2019 @ 3:00 PM ET
- April 10, 2019 @ 3:00 PM ET
- April 17, 2019 @ 3:00 PM

- Also, evaluation on the current HHS Tribal Consultation policy is **due on March 15, 2019**
MMPC Annual Strategy Session

- March 19-20th, 2019

- Radisson Green Bay Hotel and Conference Center

Thank you to our hosts!

2040 Airport Drive
Green Bay, WI, 54313
Phone: 1-920-494-7300
NIHB Conferences: TPHS & Behavioral Health
National Indian Health Board
Health Policy Fellowship

**DEADLINE:** March 30\(^{th}\) 2019

Free Travel and Opportunities to Grow
Health Policy Fellows meet in-person 3 times and receive 5 virtual trainings to strengthen their ability to advocate for their communities.

Health Policy Fellows:
- Work with their Tribal leadership to identify one priority health issue
- Learn to analyze policy in their issue area
- Advocate for change
- Develop Indigenous leadership skills

**Got Questions?** Contact NIHB’s Native Youth Engagement Manager, Dr. Wendee Gardner at [wgardner@nihb.org](mailto:wgardner@nihb.org) or (202) 548-7297
Thank you!

For more information please contact:

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National Indian Health Board