

Tribal Advisory Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Tribal Advisory Workgroup		
11.29.2012	1:30-3:30 p.m.	Next Meeting: TBD
Meeting called by	Covered California	
Type of meeting	Tribal Advisory Workgroup	
Facilitator	Peter Lee / Jessica Abernethy	
Note taker	Natalia Chavez	
Executive Sponsor	Jessica Abernethy / Katie Marcellus / Peter Lee	
Attendees	Chris Devers, Mark Romero, Mark LeBeau, Joshua Standing Horse, Jennifer Ruiz, Margaret Alspaugh, Carey Glancy, Dawn Hummel, Frederick Rundlet, John Andrews, Jacquie Archambeau, Jess Montoya, Molin Malicay, Jyl Marden, Britta Guerrero, Scott Black, Jessica Abernethy, Natalia Chavez, Katie Marcellus, Daniel Eliav, Peter Lee	
Introduction		
Discussion	Introduction of agenda and meeting materials	
Peter Lee, Executive Director, Covered California, began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.		
Exchange Board Activities Update		
Discussion	Overview of the October and November Covered California Board actions.	
Mr. Lee began the discussion by providing an overview of actions taken by the Covered California Board in October and November.		
Mr. Malicay asked about the Exchange's new name and Mr. Lee explained that the Exchange adopted its new name, Covered California, during its October Board meeting. Mr. Lee went on to explain the benefit metal tiers (platinum, gold, silver, bronze) for small employers.		
The Workgroup raised the question of who had reviewed the Tribal Consultation Policy. Ms. Abernethy responded that the Consultation Policy was sent out to the Advisory Workgroup and posted on website. It was suggested that Covered California also send the Consultation Policy to Tribal leaders.		
The question was raised of how Covered California will remain financially sustainable after its federal funding expires. Mr. Lee responded that after December 2014, Covered California will be operating based on a participation fee charged to the health plans that are in the Exchange. Mr. Lee noted that the group will receive Covered California's Financial Sustainability Plan. This plan outlines how Covered California will operate without Federal dollars.		
The Workgroup inquired about who Covered California covers and does not cover. Mr. Lee described the targeted populations for Covered California, noting those eligible for subsidies and those who want to buy health insurance without the need of health screenings. He also noted that Covered California will be offering programs to insure employees of small businesses.		
Mr. Lee further provided examples of some distinct benefits that Covered California offers to members of federally-recognized Tribes.		
Dr. LeBeau noted that there are various definitions of Indian. He asked that Covered California consider using the same definition of Indians as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Ms. Marcellus noted that as of right now, Covered California is using the definition of Indian provided by federal regulatory guidance.		

Tribal Advisory Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Action Items	
Send the Tribal Consultation Policy to the Tribal Leaders and a link of the Financial Sustainability Plan to the Workgroup.	
Outreach and Education	
Discussion	Update on Covered California's outreach and education grants activities.
<p>Sarah Soto-Taylor, Deputy Director of Stakeholder Engagement, gave an overview of Covered California's community grant program and described the targeted populations of Covered California's marketing and outreach efforts. She also talked about the goals, funding pools, and timeline of Covered California.</p> <p>Ms. Marden asked if Covered California is pulling money out of an outreach pool that will be used specifically to reach targeted populations Ms. Soto-Taylor responded that Covered California will make sure that certain populations, including Tribes, are represented when community organizations apply for grants.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay asked who, other than Indian Country, Covered California is targeting. Ms. Soto-Taylor responded that community grants will be awarded to groups who have high levels of uninsured individuals, such as Latinos, African Americans, and segments of the workforce that have high levels of uninsured such as the construction industry.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay stated that the definition of Indian must be clarified early on. Ms. Marcellus responded that Covered California is having conversations with the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight to clarify the definition of Indian for purposes of exchange subsidies. Until further guidance is received, Covered California will use the definition of Indian provided by federal regulatory guidance. Ms. Lam added that Covered California still needs help from the Workgroup to reach their communities, regardless if some are not federally-recognized because they may still benefit from Covered California.</p> <p>Ms. Soto-Taylor asked for feedback on collateral types/styles that are most effective in reaching targeted audiences, such as brochures, posters, buttons, pens, etc.</p> <p>Ms. Soto-Taylor also asked feedback from the group on whether there are additional criteria Covered California should consider in the grantee selection process with regards to Indian Country, as well as thoughts and opinions relative to the issues and considerations presented today, and any additional factors Covered California should consider.</p> <p>Dr. LeBeau asked how much each grantee will be awarded. Ms. Soto-Taylor responded that the grant can be up to \$500,000 and it's not anticipated that a grantee will receive anything less than \$100,000.</p> <p>Dr. LeBeau asked what selection criteria will there be for determining who receives the awards, other than the level of access to the target populations. Ms. Soto-Taylor responded that when an organization submits their application, Covered California will consider their capacity to do outreach and education to the proposed audience. If an organization has had prior experience doing outreach and education, it will be looked upon favorably.</p>	
Action Items	
Covered California would like feedback from the Tribal Advisory Workgroup on the most effective ways to reach Indian Country. Covered California would also like to know if there are additional criteria that should be a part of the grantee selection process, thoughts and opinions relative to the issues and considerations presented, and additional factors Covered California should consider.	

Tribal Advisory Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Assisters Program	
Discussion	Update from Covered California on the development of the Assisters Program.
<p>Thien Lam, Deputy Director of Eligibility and Enrollment, gave an update on the Assisters Program, which encompasses in-person assistance and Navigators. She gave an overview of the guiding principles of the Assisters Program Affordable Care Act requirements. Ms. Lam mentioned there are two types of in-person assisters: those that are compensated and those that are not. Those that have a financial gain from enrolling individuals to Covered California, such as providers, hospitals, and agents, will not be compensated. She also stated that Covered California is considering the role of community clinics and whether they should be compensated. In addition, Ms. Lam talked about the potential eligible entities of the Assisters Program and gave a tentative timeline of the in-person assistance program.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay asked whether Covered California will be certifying the organization or the individual applying for the Assisters grants and where it was planning on doing the certification for in-person assistance and Navigators. Ms. Lam confirmed that they will be certifying both the organization and individual. Certification will be via a computer-based training, but Covered California will be rolling things out by way of in-person training.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay asked if there will be one application for both Medi-Cal and Covered California. Ms. Lam responded that there will be a single streamlined application.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay asked if an assister would still receive the \$58 compensation for an application that was completed and submitted if the applicant ended up qualifying for Medi-Cal. Ms. Lam responded that compensation will only occur when an individual is successfully enrolled in Covered California. However, if an individual goes in to get assistance with the application and it looks like he/she qualifies for Medi-Cal, the Assister will be required to offer help.</p> <p>The Workgroup asked what roles providers play as Assisters and Navigators. Ms. Lam responded that they are not necessarily viewed as an Assister but it is recognized that they have a role in the process.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay asked if the public will be bombarded with advertisements from the health plans. In other words, will there be a limitation on how much marketing the plans can do? Ms. Marcellus responded that this is something that has to be worked out.</p> <p>Ms. Lam asked the Workgroup for feedback on the ways Covered California can effectively recruit Assister entities to provide enrollment assistance information about Covered California, while serving the Alaska Native/American Indian population. Thoughts and opinions relative to the issues and considerations presented today are appreciated, as well as additional factors that Covered California should consider.</p> <p>Chairman Devers stated that they have an insurance committee that addresses the needs of their members. He would like to know if there is someone that could provide some educational component to them and when it could start. Ms. Lam responded that Covered California plans on facilitating a webinar that talks more about the difference between an IPA and a navigator, and asked the Workgroup if they could provide a list of the organizations that Covered California should send an invitation to when the webinar is ready to be rolled out. Chairman Devers responded that Native Americans don't have a tendency to participate in webinars.</p>	
Action Items	
None	

Tribal Advisory Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Marketing	
Discussion	Update on the Covered California's marketing activities.
<p>Oscar Hidalgo, Director of Communications and Public Relations, presented on Covered California's marketing efforts.</p> <p>Mr. Hidalgo noted that Covered California is seeking feedback on the following: a Tribal fact sheet that will be featured on Covered California's microsite, a dedicated tribal webpage, and the channels that are most effective to reach the Tribal community to encourage enrollment, education and understanding of Covered California.</p> <p>Mr. Malicay noted that Covered California should make the fact sheet and webpage clearly Native. He also pointed out that Tribal Chairmen receive a lot of mail, and that American Indian/Alaska Native are very visual people. In his clinic, no one takes brochures, but they will look at something very colorful and visual.</p> <p>Mr. Hidalgo stated that maybe there are certain areas where Covered California can put short informational videos and lead individuals to the next step in the enrollment process. Mr. Malicay stated that social media is very effective. With 115 federally-recognized tribes in California, each Tribe will respond differently. A video may be a start, but developing a program or presentation where an individual can come out and give some assistance where they'd be able to explain these things.</p> <p>Ms. Marden noted that it will be important to make transparent which qualified health plans are in contract Tribal and urban facilities because of the cost-sharing protections. If a native person is picking a plan, they'll need to know if they can go to the Tribal or urban clinic.</p>	
Action Items	
Ms. Abernethy asked Mr. Malicay to send Covered California a list of organizations that could be used for Covered California's marketing efforts.	
2013 Annual Tribal Consultation	
Discussion	Potential Dates for the next Annual Tribal Consultation
<p>Ms. Abernethy asked the Workgroup to consider some dates for the next annual Tribal consultation. A request will be sent to the workgroup Chair and advisors via email. Chairman Devers asked what is envisioned for the annual Tribal consultation. Ms. Abernethy responded that every year Covered California will invite all the Tribal leaders and Tribal clinics to the annual Tribal consultation. Covered California will develop the agenda for the consultation with the Workgroup. She would like to have the annual consultation scheduled near other Tribal meetings to maximize attendance.</p>	
Action Items	
Send out Covered California sustainability plan and meeting minutes. Coordinate with Mr. Malicay on the next workgroup agenda and date.	