

Covered California Tribal Consultation

MINUTES

November 7, 2013

Sacramento, California

Opening Prayer and Blessing	
Introductions	
Opening Remarks	<p>Peter Lee provided an overview of where the state of California started with the Health Benefit Exchange to the most recent open enrollment October 1, 2014. He shared successes and challenges with implementation of the state-based marketplace. Tribal leaders engaged in a discussion with Mr. Lee on how Covered California works, in terms of establishing premiums, and when it is best to enroll in coverage. A letter was presented to Covered California with four requests to Covered California on behalf of United Indian Health Services, Elk Valley Rancheria, Smith River Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Maidu Tribe, Greenville Rancheria, Santa Ynez Tribal Health, American Indian Health Services, Inc., Wiyot Tribe, Susanville Indian Tribe, Sonoma County Indian Health Project, the Cloverdale Rancheria, Tolowa Nation, Greenville Rancheria, Karuk Tribal Health Program, Ewiiapaayp Band of Indians, and Riverside San Bernardino County Indian Health. The requests included support of the definition of Indian Bill, mandating that qualified health plans offer contracts to Indian Health Programs, assisting in ensuring the Covered California and CalHEERS system is available to Indian Health Programs, and continuing the Tribal Consultation Process. Attendees asked various questions of Mr. Lee including questions about the unique provisions of the ACA that apply only to American Indians and Alaska Natives.</p>
Welcome on Behalf of Governor Edmund Brown, Jr.	<p>Cynthia Gomez, Tribal Advisor to Governor Brown, gave an opening welcome, highlighting the importance of tribal consultation and the Governor's commitment to tribes.</p>
Opening Comments and Covered CA Tribal Advisory Workgroup Report	<p>Vicki Macias, Workgroup representative from the Central West Region, shared an overview of the issues discussed in workgroup meetings. She shared the priority topics, which included definition of Indian, tribal sponsorship, network adequacy and inclusion of Indian Health Programs, and outreach and enrollment efforts to American Indians and Alaska Natives in California.</p>
Qualified Health Plans	<p>Leah Morris, Covered California staff in the plan management team, provided an overview of where Covered California is with qualified health plans, termed "QHP." She shared how QHP were selected to participate in the marketplace, and the commitment of the QHP to provide quality care. Ms. Morris informed the group that Covered California had provided QHP with a comprehensive Indian</p>

	<p>Health clinic directory with strong language encouraging QHP to include them in their networks. Participants engaged Leah in a robust discussion inclusive of network issues, gaps in tribal communities, and Independent Physicians Association (IPA).</p> <p><i>Recommendation: Tribal leaders expressed a strong desire for Covered California to require QHP to offer contracts to Indian Health Programs.</i></p>
Indian Patient Attestation Process	<p>Thien Lam, Covered California staff, provided a general overview of the enrollment processes online and on paper. Participants engaged in a conversation with Thien regarding how certified enrollment counselors would be able to assist consumers. Thien clarified that Covered California would not be processing the exemption application. Issues and concerns were raised regarding the authority of Covered California to verify Indian status, as well concerns from tribal leaders asking that tribes have the opportunity to verify their own members.</p>
CalHEERS Demonstration	<p>Laura Moreno, Covered California staff, spoke regarding unique provisions and how they are implemented in the system. Covered California staff provided a live demonstration of the CalHEERS systems. During this live demo attendees were able to ask questions as well make recommendations on how to communicate the information effectively for American Indian people. Ms. Moreno demonstrated how the system is dynamic and reliant on how consumers answer questions. Attendees requested that American Indian specific income questions be clear and as inclusive as possible. Ms. Moreno shared that the application for the marketplace is inclusive of Medi-Cal. She also demonstrated how families with both members of tribes and non-members of tribes have to submit two separate applications, one with financial assistance and one without.</p>
Tribal Sponsorship	<p>Virginia Hedrick, CRIHB Associate Health Policy Analyst, provided an overview of the ability of Tribes and Tribal Health Programs to sponsor premiums on behalf of their patients and members. There currently is not a sponsorship policy in place; however Covered California is currently seeking input on this policy from tribes and tribal health programs. Tribes could sponsor members living in others states; however they would have to engage the relevant marketplace on how to do that. She addressed concerns regarding discrimination clarifying that sponsorship policies at the tribal level would need to be clear, specific and cannot include discriminatory language.</p>
Indian Outreach & Education: Rural and Urban	<p>Stacey Kennedy, CRIHB Covered California Education and Outreach Manager, provided an overview of the activities provided by the program. She shared that CRIHB has one full time employee to attend community events and provide information on Covered California. CRIHB is also working with the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health to develop a training module to be used by tribes and Indian Health Programs. Additionally, CRIHB has adapted Covered California materials to be inclusive of the American Indian provisions and to be culturally appropriate.</p>
Certified Enrollment Entities,	<p>Sarah Soto-Taylor, Deputy Director of Community Relations for Covered California, provided an overview of the process of becoming a Certified Enrollment Entity or a Certified Enrollment Counselor. To date there are eleven tribal entities that</p>

Navigator Program	identify as Certified Enrollment Entities. She announced that in the coming year there would be a Navigator Grant opportunity to assist entities in implementing enrollment efforts.
<u>Closing Remarks</u>	Dr. Mark LeBeau provided a brief recap of the day and thanked attendees for their contributions and questions and their dedication to health.

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