

**Senate Bill 770 Health Services Cluster Meeting
Pendleton, Oregon
August 27, 2008**

Attendees:

Nasreen Abdullah	DHS, Public Health Division
Richard Acevedo	DHS, Director's Office
Randy Blackburn	DHS, Office of Federal Financial Policy
Sonciray Bonnell	Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
Judy Bowen	DHS, Seniors and People with Disabilities Division
Caroline Cruz	DHS, Addictions and Mental Health Division
Jim Edge	DHS, Division of Medical Assistance Programs
Theresa Elisoff	Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
Carolyn Featherstone	Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center
Susan Frey	Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center
Eric Gabriel	Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center
Jim Gaudino	DHS, Public Health Division
Linda Hettinga	Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center
Chris Larsen	Christie Care
Kelle Little	Coquille Indian Tribe
Rita McMillan	DHS, Addictions and Mental Health Division
Eric Metcalf	CTCLUSI
Judy Muschamp	Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Fariorz Pakseresht	DHS, Transformation Initiative – Director's Office
Woody Patawa	Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
Jim Roberts	NW Portland Area Indian Health Board
Clyde Saiki	DHS, Deputy Director
Jolene Walters	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Diana Woods	DHS, Director's Office

Welcome & Introductions

Rick Acevedo called the meeting to order and Woody Patawa welcomed everyone to Umatilla. Leo Stewart gave the invocation and roundtable introductions were made.

DHS Budget and Legislative Update – Clyde Saiki

DHS is preparing for the upcoming E-Board for the current 2007-09 biennium. The revenue forecast remains flat and the effects of the current economic challenges are being seen in programs such as Oregon Health Plan, TANF, Food Stamps, etc. DHS is also preparing our Agency Requested Budget (ARB) for the 2009-11 biennium and it is due to the Governor by September 1, 2008.

The state economic forecast for the upcoming biennium appears to be level, however DHS will need to increase our current budget just to keep the same level of service. With the economic picture the way it is, we anticipate a greater need for our services.

MMIS will go live in December. There were some technical difficulties that prevented the start date in September.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed seven rule changes around Targeted Case Management (TCM), personal care, mental health, child welfare and several other areas. The changes would mean a reduction of Medicaid dollars available to the state. Congress declared a moratorium to the rule change so the impacts on states are on hold until April 2009.

Warm Springs and Umatilla tribes do targeted case management and have already had the new rules built into those programs so there will be little adverse effect.

Transformation Initiative – Fariborz Pakseresht

Fariborz gave an overview of the transformation initiative to transform DHS into a world-class organization in the next 2-3 years.

There is a component to the transformation initiative that gathers input from our clients² and providers. Specific issues unique to providers are part of the initiative and are being addressed.

ChristieCare Update – Chris Larsen

ChristieCare is opening the new campus in two weeks. There have been some barriers for the tribes to access the native services offered by ChristieCare.

ChristieCare is working with DHS and the tribes to assist in the criteria for access to these services. Questions can be directed to Chris Larson at ChristieCare (503) 349-5887.

Rita McMillan and Rick Acevedo have met with DHS administration regarding the access of native children to intensive mental health treatment facilities and the requirements for admission. One challenge for DHS is to assist the tribes with infrastructure for developing local services.

Sonciray Bonnell discussed the AAIR voucher system. There are currently 14 providers around the state that are using the voucher system for wraparound services with a limited amount available for mental health treatment. Many

resources are available online. Contact Erik Kakuska at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board at (503) 416-3296 or email ekakuska@npaihb.org for more information.

Clyde Saiki suggested that Chris Larson meet with Randy Blackburn (DHS, Office of Federal Financial Policy) to clearly identify the issues and barriers and take to Oregon's federal representatives (Sen. Smith, Sen. Wydan and Rep. Blumenauer) to see if this could be fixed at a federal level.

Tribal Updates

Eric Metcalf, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians

- CTCLUSI has hired a new dentist with 25 years experience.
- Also hired a tribal intern to help understand tribal government and health administration. She has an RN degree with a masters degree in nurse education and will take over all outreach supervision, will take over the diabetes program and cover many meetings.

Judy Muschamp, Confederated Tribes of Siletz

- The funding is in place and now looking to award the bid in September on the 32,000 sq ft clinic replacement project to house all health programs.
- Fitness facility that opened in February is doing well and busy all the time.
- The gymnasium is nearly complete. It will be mainly used for youth programs.
- The clinic is planning on going live with health records system on October 1.

Sonciray Bonnell, NPAIHB

- Hiring for an administrative officer in the next two weeks.
- Flyer is out for the next quarterly meeting on October 14 in Lewiston, ID. Staff will be housed at the overfill hotel.
- The next SB 770 had a request from HHS Region X to hold an emergency preparedness meeting with the tribes. Sonciray is trying to find a venue where it could take place in conjunction with another meeting.

Action Item:

Rick Acevedo will find out if it's possible to hold in conjunction with G-2-G meeting. Notice will be sent out by Sonciray Bonnell.

Jim Roberts, NPAIHB

- Indian Healthcare Improvement Act passed out of the Senate in February 2008. This bill has been worked on since 1999. Amendment was offered in the Senate that would codify 'the Hyde Amendment' which would prohibit the use of federal funds for abortion services. It prohibits Indian Health Service facilities from performing abortion services even if not using federal funds. The Speaker of the House is very pro choice and will not allow this bill on the floor for a vote during an election year. So this means the bill is stuck. Hoping to come back after the election in a lame duck session.
- There is a co-payment issue from Montana where CMS has disallowed the state of Montana from exempting Indian people from premiums and co-payments. A hearing was scheduled for May and postponed until October. It is only a matter of time before CMS brings the rest of the states into compliance with this position.

Kelle Little, Coquille Indian Tribe

- Hosting the Native Caregiving conference in October
- Hosting the ICWA conference in September and are expecting about 200 people.
- Submitted three grant applications. Two to Indian Health Service and one to Elder Care.
- Submitted a Tribal Management Grant Application for electronic health records.
- Submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention a tribal youth program grant to supplement the Tribal Youth Prevention Program.
- Working on some new quality improvement initiatives through the clinic such as childhood obesity prevention.

Jolene Walters, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

- Have three positions open: psychiatrist, therapist and a juvenile substance abuse counselor.
- A site review begins October 1, 2008.
- An Elder Gathering and Suicide Prevention hosted by NARA will be held at Warm Springs on September 8-9, 2008.
- In October, a suicide prevention seminar will be held. The tribe is offering stipends to community members who would like to attend.

Woody Patawa, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation

- Umatilla is currently in the 2009 budget process.
- Have hired two family practice physicians and are now fully staffed.
- Site planning is underway for a new health center.
- Received accreditation for the next three years.
- Annual Fun Run was held in May with 106 participants and marked the tribe's 30th anniversary.
- Finished the annual audit and the final report should be out by September 30, 2008.
- Behavioral Health is getting ready for a site review.
- Several suicide prevention trainings were held for mental health professionals and tribal police with White Bison hosting.

Theresa Elisoff, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation

- Staffing levels have increased. New staff will attend DHS training.
- Working on budget which is due at the end of the month.
- Will be attending a Region X meeting in September. Also have an on-going temporary child welfare committee rewriting policies to include the cultural component.
- Working jointly with Yellowhawk and Behavioral Health to increase service levels.

Immunization Program

Dr. James Gaudino & Nasreen Abdullah, DHS Public Health Immunization Program

Dr. Gaudino and Nasreen Abdullah discussed the Public Health Immunization Program and benefits of having children immunized. The Public Health Immunization Program provides vaccine management and consultation for healthcare providers. Immunization record tracking services is a massive database with look up capabilities with 35 million records.

The Immunization Program is actively working with tribal health clinics to provide immunization services to native children.

Oregon Health Plan – Jim Edge

The Oregon Health Plan is part of the reason for the DHS budget problem and we do not anticipate that changing anytime soon.

Oregon Health Plan Standard lottery is going smoothly. The monthly mailings are continuing to go out, but the applications coming back are less than anticipated, so the number of applications will increase to 6000 for August and September.

The Healthy Kids Program is still his priority for the Governor. He wants to have some kind of health care for all of Oregon's children. There will be different funding proposed this year, but currently it is unknown what that will be.

DHS has several policy option packages (POPs) in the Agency Requested Budget to expand the OHP Standard. There is no guarantee however, that any POP will pass the Legislature.

The Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) has a staffing component in one of the POPs.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is a federal program that is currently on a temporary extension. Children in Oregon are covered above the Medicaid level up to 185% of federal poverty level. If that program is not extended or made permanent, many children in Oregon will no longer have any medical insurance coverage.

SB 329 set up a planning process for the Oregon Health Fund Board to develop a plan to provide health care for all Oregonians. Their report is due to the Legislature in October.

There is a possibility with the interest in stimulating the economy to temporarily increase the federal match rate (FMAP) in Medicaid payments to the states. It would possibly increase funds to the state budget by 3.9%. It is scheduled to be taken up by congress in September.

First Nations: Remembering When – Stephanie Stafford, Office of State Fire Marshal

Stephanie Stafford discussed a program offered by the Office of State Fire Marshal called First Nations: Remembering When which is a fire and fall prevention program for older adults. Normally it is the elderly and children who typically die in a fire. It is critically important to educate elders on the importance of fire prevention. Elders are also more likely to have their lives complicated by falls. This program is tailored to tribal programs. For more information, contact Stephanie Stafford at (503) 934-8245 or email stephanie.stafford@state.or.us

Tribal Liaison Update

Addictions and Mental Health Division, Caroline Cruz

- Attended the Behavioral Health Conference in Billings, MT last week. Presented tribal best practices for mental health that is culturally validated.
- Funds are available through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). For more information, contact OJJDP at (202) 307-5911 or visit their website at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org
- Attended and presented the tribal best practices to the National Prevention Network Prevention Research Conference in Indiana.
- An Elder Suicide Prevention meeting will be held on September 8, 2008 at Kah-Nee-Ta. The juvenile crime plan will be meeting the afternoon of September 9, 2008. Caroline will be training the tribes on the certification in prevention process.
- A meeting on tribal best practices will be held on December 8, 2008 in Portland. Hoping to have the informational manual completed by then.

Seniors and People with Disabilities Division, Judy Bowen

- The Native Caring Conference is scheduled for October 23-24 at the Mill Hotel & Casino in Coos Bay with the Coquille Indian Tribe hosting.
- The National Indian Council on Aging has asked Judy Bowen to be on a panel. This conference will allow us to highlight what Oregon is doing on elder care giving.
- Judy was at AARP yesterday and they are backing the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act. On November 17, 2008 AARP will be hosting a Diversity and Aging Conference. Judy will send out information to the tribes inviting people to be part of this conference.

Addictions and Mental Health Division, Rita McMillan

- Next steps to access mental health services for tribal children would be to provide cultural training on the Oregon tribes to Acumentra. Rick and Rita will work on how to best present this information and will send out a questionnaire to get input from the tribes.
- It would be good to develop a mental health workgroup within the tribal communities that would make referrals for residential treatment, identify what resources are available on the reservations and develop a pre-screening process to make sure that all Native American children in Oregon are meeting the same level of care.

Action Item:

Rick will check with Ron Hudson about presenting information on the Family Unity Program at the next SB 770 meeting.

Next meeting:

The next SB 770 meeting will be held on November 12 in conjunction with the Government-to-Government Summit in Florence, OR.